



Daily Report

Latin America

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1 June 1988

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Further Reports on Havana Nonaligned Meeting

DPRK's Kim Yong-nam Speaks

SK3105052388 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0500 GMT 31 May 88

[Text] Havana May 29 (KCNA)—Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam made a speech at the extraordinary ministerial meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of non-aligned countries on disarmament in Havana.

Noting that, though there had been a series of agreements on disarmament, the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, did not end and acute crises and tense situation persist in the international relations, Kim Yong-nam said:

The prevailing situation urgently demands that the role of the Nonaligned Movement be enhanced in the struggle to prevent a nuclear war and defend peace.

The respected leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il-song has taught:

"The most important question in the field of international politics at the moment is to eliminate the source of nuclear war and preserve peace."

The nonaligned countries must set it forth as their most important duty to remove the source of nuclear war and safeguard peace and undertake energetic activities so that practical steps could be taken to terminate the arms race and realize an overall and complete disarmament, nuclear dismantlement in particular.

Our delegation considers that priority should be given to the elimination of nuclear weapons, first of all, and an energetic joint action be taken for a ban on the test and production of nuclear weapons and their stockpile and use and complete removal of all kinds of nuclear weapons from the globe.

Under the present situation in which a Soviet-U.S. INF treaty was signed, the nonaligned countries should orient their activities to the abolition of tactical and strategic nuclear weapons.

At present, they should see that a Soviet-U.S. treaty on the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons by 50 percent is signed.

They should struggle for an early conclusion of a treaty on the complete prohibition of all nuclear tests and suspension of the testings of all nuclear weapons until that time.

The nonaligned countries should make joint efforts to convert the regions on which agreements have already been reached into true nuclear-free zones, while bringing into practice the new proposals for the establishment of nuclear-free zones and strive in every way to get measures taken for

a ban on the development and production of mass destruction weapons including chemical weapons and reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons.

The nonaligned countries must strongly demand the withdrawal of all means of war including nuclear weapons and foreign troops and foreign military bases from other countries.

Warning that the nuclear arms race and the danger of conflicts are ever growing in the Asia-Pacific region, he continued:

We consider that the Asia-Pacific region must not be excluded in the worldwide disarmament talks and a negotiation for disarmament in this region be held at an early date.

Today, the Korean peninsula is an area where the disarmament problem stands out more urgently than in any other areas and the disarmament on the Korean peninsula is a part of global disarmament.

On the Korean peninsula, huge armed forces of the North and the South are standing confronted with each other and mutual distrust and misunderstanding are increasing.

Worse still, more than 40,000 U.S. troops and over 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons of various types are deployed in South Korea. The density of nuclear deployment there is quadruple that in the NATO nations.

Having turned South Korea into a nuclear depot and the biggest nuclear forward base in the Far East, the United States is staging one nuclear military exercise after another against the northern half of Korea.

Thus, South Korea has become a hotbed of nuclear war and a dangerous situation where a nuclear war may break out any moment has been created on the Korean peninsula.

In the recent years alone, we put forward one after another various realistic proposals for detente including the proposal for ending the arms buildup and arms race, the proposal for making the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free, peace zone and the proposal for holding North-South high-level political and military talks. But, the United States and the South Korean authorities have refused all our reasonable proposals and answered them with the large-scale "Team Spirit-88" joint military manoeuvres while aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula still further.

The United States must withdraw its troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea at once, demanded Kim Yong-nam.

He expressed the firm belief that the nonaligned countries would pay deep attention to the development of the situation on the Korean peninsula and continuously express firm support and solidarity for disarmament and detente there.

SRV Minister Gives Address

BK0106071788 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 30 May 88

[Address by SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach at the 29 May opening session of the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau's conference on disarmament held at the Palace of Conventions in Havana—read by announcer]

[Text] We, the SRV delegation, highly value Cuba's great efforts in preparing well various draft documents of the Nonaligned Movement's Coordinating Bureau. The SRV is in favor of all conference documents and holds that the approval of these documents amounts to a great contribution by the Nonaligned Movement to the success of the third special UN General Assembly meeting on disarmament.

All of the Nonaligned Movement's documents on disarmament as well as the final document of the UN General Assembly's special meeting in 1978 clearly point out the dangers to mankind as well as the urgent need to avert nuclear wars; eliminate nuclear, biological, chemical, and mass-destruction weapons; prevent the arms race from moving into space; and implement the disarmament program in a comprehensive and thorough manner in order to ensure peace, security, and lasting development for various nations.

Several decades have elapsed with only a few positive steps taken that still do not meet the world people's desire for disarmament and for a lasting peace in order to achieve development. There is now a danger that the arms race is entering a new, more dangerous stage where new scientific and technical progress has been achieved and where attempts are being made to move the arms race into space.

The Nonaligned Movement has persistently contributed to the cause of disarmament and has taken an active part in the UN efforts in this sense. We will, together with all other nations and the world people, strive with a strong resolve to play a major role in the cause of disarmament in the interest of peace and development all over the world. We welcome the active steps taken at the Soviet-U.S. summits and call on the United States and the Soviet Union to cut 50 percent of their strategic weapons and to take steps toward total and complete disarmament.

There is still a misconception that it is major arms, especially nuclear arms, manufacturing nations that have a decisive role in disarmament. They are, of course, the countries with primary responsibility. But the problem raised here is whether arms manufacturing and arms trading play an equally decisive role. The manufacture of

weapons cannot be stepped up if weapons are not traded. In particular, imperialist and colonialist countries are manufacturing weapons not for use in their own countries but rather in other countries, especially in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. In the past 40 years, wars have never broken out between the major arms manufacturing countries, between the countries with nuclear weapons, or between the countries with the biggest arsenals. However, more than 100 wars have flared up in the past 40 years in Asian, African, and Latin American countries that are not arms manufacturers and that have no nuclear weapons or large arsenals. Wars have been waged by imperialist and colonialist countries against these Asian, African, and Latin American countries. The world people and the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America are the main victims of the global arms race.

The imperialist and colonialist circles have amassed huge profits from the arms race and have used weapons as a tool in a most profitable policy to maintain their exploitation and domination in Asian, African, and Latin American countries.

Being the main consumers for the arms manufacturing countries, the main victims of the arms race, and the areas where many limited wars have taken place in the past 40 years, it is in the vital interests of Asian, African, and Latin American countries—which are endowed with full authority and power as sovereign countries—to struggle against the arms race and against the use of force in international relations.

In the past 4 decades, the struggle for national independence and for the nonaligned policy of Asian, African, and Latin American countries has made decisive contributions to causing the collapse of colonialism and checking the strategy of drawing Asian, African, and Latin American countries into aggressive military alliances, and has caused the disintegration of various military alliances. Many Asian, African, and Latin American nations have made decisive contributions to defeating aggressive policies against their independence. Of striking importance is the Korean war, the Indochina war, the Algerian war, the Vietnam war, the Bay of Pigs invasion, and the war waged by Portugal against Angola and Mozambique. In Asia, Africa, and Latin America, agreements have been signed and requirements established for setting up nuclear-free zones—the Tlatelolco treaty in Latin America and the Rarotonga treaty in the South Pacific. The OAU has decided to keep Africa nuclear-free and has proposed the establishment of nuclear-free zones in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and the Korean peninsula. A number of areas and a number of Asian, African, and Latin American countries have banned foreign countries from introducing weapons into their territories.

In Asia, Africa, and Latin America, there have also been many initiatives to set up various zones of peace such as the zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality in Southeast Asia, the zone of cooperation in South Asia, and the zone

of peace in the Indian Ocean. A growing number of countries in Asia and Latin America have demanded an end to the presence of foreign forces and foreign military bases in their territories.

Various Nonaligned Movement resolutions have contributed to solving many conflicts and disputes in Asia, Africa, and Latin America through peaceful means. The OAU has exerted great efforts to solve the conflicts between some African countries through peaceful means. Efforts have also been made by the Arab League to settle differences between various Arab nations. The Contadora Group has actively contributed to solving through peaceful means many crises in Central America caused by foreign intervention.

In Southeast Asia, the Nonaligned Movement has advanced many proposals contributing to a peaceful settlement of the Cambodian issue. Since late 1987, there have been positive developments in line with the resolutions adopted at the sixth, seventh, and eighth nonaligned summits on Southeast Asia, including the Cambodia question. The Nonaligned Movement resolutions call on all parties concerned in Southeast Asia to sit down for talks to solve the Cambodian issue by peaceful means without intervention from the outside.

The DPRK has proposed a peaceful reunification of Korea on the basis of having foreign troops withdrawn from Korea.

The results over the past several decades show that although the nonaligned countries do not manufacture weapons and have neither nuclear weapons nor huge arsenals, we are weapons-consumers and the main victims of the various global arms races. We have also been the main victims of various limited wars that have taken place during the past 40 years. We share the most vital interests and have the power to transform Asia, Africa, and Latin America into regions without the arms race, without military alliances, without a foreign military presence, and without nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons; to ban the shipment of nuclear arms through the countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America; and to set up regions of peace and cooperation where the use of force in solving differences and disputes among nations is ruled out. This is a long uphill process, but it is in our hands, not in the hands of the imperialist and colonialist forces that want to sell their arms. We can gradually achieve this goal, and it will be our extremely important contribution to the cause of global disarmament and peace.

While taking an active part in the common cause of disarmament of all nations under the framework of the United Nations, our Nonaligned Movement shares the vital interests and has the full power to transform Asian, African, and Latin American countries into zones free from the arms race and from nuclear weapons—zones of peace, without the use of force in international relations.

More on Ritter News Conference

PA3105130488 Panama City Televisora Nacional
in Spanish 0350 GMT 31 May 88

[Report on news conference with Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter "over the weekend" at the nonaligned meeting on disarmament in Havana—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Ritter] "What Panama was demanding and continues to demand is an end to the economic pressures and measures that are destroying Panama's economy and an end to the exaggerated U.S. military presence in Panama in violation of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, which do not authorize a military presence of such magnitude and which do not authorize a military presence that is not exclusively for the defense of the Panama Canal. No Latin American country could accept U.S. military intervention in any Latin American country.

"What happened is that Mr Delvalle, in a moment that is shameful in Latin American political history, asked for U.S. military intervention in Panama. Because the United States knows that there would be no climate for it and that such military intervention would be rejected by all the countries in the world, it has now resorted to Latin America so that it will grant the favor of doing what the United States has been unable to impose on us by force. That is the truth about Panama's current situation. The United States has changed its attitude and now wants to demand that Latin American countries impose on Panama what it has been unable to impose on us with the most severe economic sanctions such as have never been imposed on any country."

Referring to Panama's election as a member of the UN Human Rights Commission, Foreign Minister Ritter said:

[Ritter] "Elections in the United Nations have various political meanings. As in any election in an organization like the United Nations—in which so many countries of various beliefs and ideologies participate—first of all, it means a great diplomatic victory, as it also was a diplomatic victory for Colombia and Cuba, which were also elected to the Human Rights Commission. It also means a defeat for those who wanted to take to the Human Rights Commission the political and ideological struggles being waged in our continent.

"The U.S. press has overwhelmingly attacked Panama and its institutions and leaders. Nevertheless, the United Nations has issued its opinion and expressed its truth, electing Panama to the Human Rights Commission. In the second round of voting, Panama only confronted Costa Rica, a neighboring border country, a country that has achieved prestige in the human rights area. That is why I not only interpret this as a diplomatic victory but as a defeat for those who have sought to use the human rights issue as a political weapon against Latin American countries."

Commenting on international solidarity in the face of U.S. aggression against our country, Foreign Minister Ritter said:

[Ritter] "Panama is undertaking diplomatic efforts in other areas of the world to diversify its exports.

"On the other hand, since the aggression brought about immediate and devastating effects, we have also had to resort to the solidarity of other countries to find support for things that are basic for the nation's survival. For example, in the case of fertilizers—with the arrival of the rainy season—if we did not receive those fertilizers, our crops would run the risk of being lost and our country would be in danger of lacking food.

"In addition, Panama has found in Latin America a great solidarity, not only in terms of political backing, but in organizations such as SELA, which has provided Panama with financial and technical assistance. Brother countries—Cuba has played a very important role in this—have given us their support. All countries, despite the fact that they have great limitations, have given their support to Panama."

Answering questions regarding U.S. military intentions in Panama, the Panamanian foreign minister said:

[Ritter] "First, [their intention is] to prolong their military presence in the isthmus of Panama beyond the year 2000. The Torrijos-Carter Treaties state that the U.S. military presence will end at noon on 31 December 1999. The United States has tried by all means to have a docile government in Panama that can assure them a renegotiation of that treaty to allow them to remain in Panama beyond the year 2000, specifically until the year 2025.

"Panama is paying a high price for not allowing its territory to be used by U.S. forces and the contras. In 1985, Admiral Poindexter asked General Noriega to withdraw from Comandora and to allow the permanent presence of the Southern Command, an installation that is not included in any agreement with the United States. Panama only signed [the treaties] with the United States for the presence of specific bases and defense sites for the exclusive purpose of defending the canal. The presence of the Southern Command in Panama has no legal basis."

Regarding the break in talks between the United States and Panama, Foreign Minister Ritter said:

[Ritter] "The talks held with the United States have been interrupted. The announcement that the talks were broken was made by Secretary of State George Shultz in the United States after Panama rejected the ultimatum given by the United States to accept an arrangement and a number of conditions that were unacceptable to Panama. I must point out that the United States entered those talks because they were in a rush to reach an agreement, thinking about their own elections rather than thinking about a lasting agreement with Panama.

"For this reason, the proposals were unacceptable and this was the reason the talks ended without any specific result. The United States, which took the initiative in the talks, had made several proposals that have been reported by the U.S. media in a very different way.

"There was the offer, if it can be called that, to lift economic sanctions, to withdraw U.S. troops, to lift the indictment against Gen Noriega. However, the lifting of economic sanctions was fictitious, if one wants to call it that, because the United States intended to continue recognizing a president whom they have kept in hiding for the past 3 months.

"This made the lifting of economic sanctions difficult or impossible. I will explain why: Part of the National Bank's money that has prevented Panamanian banks from operating normally is in the United States. These funds are not frozen by the U.S. Government. They are in an account at the disposal of former President Delvalle, whom the United States continues to recognize as president.

"Consequently, if the United States is not expressly recognizing the current Panamanian Government, then the economic sanctions cannot be lifted. This is why the U.S. proposal was unacceptable to Panama. However, the idea has been sold in the United States that the only thing that was being negotiated was the lifting of the indictment in exchange for Gen Noriega's withdrawal.

"What Panama basically demanded and continues to demand is the suspension of the economic pressures and measures that are destroying Panama's economy. It is also demanding the suspension of the exaggerated U.S. military presence in Panama which, in addition, violates the Torrijos-Carter Treaties that do not authorize such a large military presence and a military presence that is not solely devoted to the defense of the Panama Canal."

Referring to the summit held by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan, the Panamanian foreign minister said:

[Ritter] "I do not want to predict the results of that summit. However, I can tell you that the United States wanted to have the Panamanian case closed so that it would not be a topic at the summit or a topic for the newsmen who are attending the summit. However, it is inevitable that it will be a topic. Therefore, I think that all the countries of the world will be waiting to see what the results will be. Of course, there are topics there that are of particular interest to Latin America. One of these topics is the Central American situation, which will have to be analyzed by the Soviet Union and the United States. However, these are topics that Latin American countries have already discussed and expressed an opinion on. I think that this opinion cannot be ignored by the two superpowers."

At the end of the news conference held in Havana, the Panamanian foreign minister reaffirmed the position of the Panamanian Government and people:

[Ritter] "Panama has maintained the same position of patience and tolerance and has no intention of creating pretexts for the United States to use military force, which the United States is seeking to justify before its own citizens. With this patience we want to show the world that our weakness is our strength."

Malmierca Presides at Closing

*FL3105131588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 May 88*

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz has met with the delegations attending the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau's ministerial meeting held at Havana's Palace of Conventions. Fidel praised the work carried out at the meeting and told reporters that the event has been very supportive of all the efforts being made to attain peace.

The important meeting ended today before dawn with the approval by consensus of the final declaration of the Nonaligned Movement's action plan to be taken to the third special period of sessions on disarmament of the UN General Assembly beginning today. The declaration calls for an end to the arms race as a vital necessity of the human race. The document also urges the United States and the Soviet Union to reach an agreement on the elimination of 50 percent of all strategic weapons.

Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli presided over the final session. Representatives of India, Mali, and Peru made remarks at this time.

Libyan Official Comments

*FL0105020788 Havana Television Service in Spanish
0000 GMT 1 Jun 88*

[Text] The first ministerial meeting of the nonaligned countries on disarmament ended this morning in Havana with the approval by consensus of the plan of action and the final communique.

These documents, along with the Havana Appeal, previously agreed upon by the participants, outlined the nonaligned countries' position at the current UN General Assembly meeting on disarmament. The agreements adopted at this ministerial meeting propose concrete actions that will promote initiatives to stop the arms race, especially nuclear weapons, and to prevent the militarization of space.

Another position of the nonaligned countries at the UN forum is that resources made available by disarmament be dedicated to socioeconomic development.

Hours prior to the conclusion of the Havana meeting, Jadallah 'Azuz al-Talhi, secretary of the Libyan People's Foreign Liaison Bureau, made some remarks to Cuban television journalists:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified journalist] Mr Foreign Minister, at the opening session you spoke on behalf of the African nations. We would like to know if you think the agreements reached at this nonaligned forum will help the development of disarmament in Africa.

[Al-Talhi in Arabic with superimposed Spanish translation] It can promote peace initiatives favoring disarmament. We think that the nonaligned countries will maintain a firm posture in defense of the agreements reached here because it is necessary to maintain a unified position at the UN General Assembly.

We also want to thank Cuba for its initiative in hosting this nonaligned meeting on disarmament and the good conditions created for this event. [end recording]

Cuba

Castro Inaugurates Development Headquarters

FL2805125188 Havana Radio Reloj Network
in Spanish 1133 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee, has participated in the inauguration of the house in Playa municipality that will be the headquarters for the group responsible for the integrated development of the capital.

Fidel toured the installations in this area and he stressed the importance of the group and this great idea to develop the capital in a manner worthy of our country. Previous construction projects lacked direction, he said.

The commander in chief emphasized the construction of the main scale model of the city which will provide guidance for the work that will be done. He reiterated the urgency of resolving the deteriorating situation of the capital's water network.

Pedro Chavez, president of the Havana City Peoples' Government, said during the inauguration of the installation that the group will create guidelines for important projects in the territory.

Angolan Defense Minister Meets With R. Castro

MB2805080288 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Colonel General Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale has already held a meeting with Cuban Defense Minister Raul Castro within the framework of his visit to that country. It is believed that during the meeting Col Gen Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale and his counterpart, Raul Castro, discussed the political and military situation in Angola and the cooperation between the two country's state and military institutions.

The defense minister also has met with Angolan students on the Isle of Youth. He is thought to have spoken to them about the military situation in Angola, where South African troops were repelled by the glorious FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] combatants when they attempted to take over the strategic position of Cuito Cuanavale in Cuando Cubango Province.

This issue was also discussed during a meeting Fidel Castro held in Havana with African diplomats in Cuba. The meeting centered on the prevailing situation in southern Africa, particularly in the People's Republic of Angola. In the presence of the representatives of the countries with which Cuba maintains diplomatic relations, the Cuban head of state reaffirmed his government's willingness to contribute in the search for a political solution for southern Africa which will lead to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435/78 and guarantee southern Africa's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Tanzanian Defense Minister Tours Matanzas

FL3005212288 Havana Television Service in Spanish
0000 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] Salim Ahmed Salim, deputy prime minister and defense minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, has visited the province of Matanzas where he was received by Francisco Zaragoza, member of the provincial party committee and vice president of the people's government in Matanzas.

The delegation received a detailed briefing on the characteristics, tasks, methods, and forms in which the Matanzas Province Defense Council carries out its activities based on the doctrine of the war of all the people. The briefing was given by Colonel (Ruget Fundora Caballero), first vice minister of the provincial general staff.

The Tanzanian minister was also briefed by the defense council presidents of Cardenas municipality and the Cartel Camarioca on similar tasks performed in each defense zone. The visitors expressed interest in the structure and operations of the councils during peace and war, as well as other matters related to their activities.

The Tanzanian delegation later toured the San Carlos de la Cabana Fort in Havana where they received a brief explanation on the old defense system in our capital. The African officials also observed a military program that concluded at 2100 with the traditional gun salute ceremony, a custom which commemorates the colonial era of our city.

Angolan, Tanzanian Defense Ministers End Visit

FL3005123888 Havana Radio Progreso Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] Yesterday the defense ministers of Angola, Colonel General Pedro Maria Tonha, and Tanzania, Salim Ahmed Salim, ended their 1-week official visit to Cuba. The ministers were seen off by Army General Raul Castro in ceremonies held at Cacahual.

Legal, Cooperation Accords With Libya Signed

FL3005222788 Havana Television Cubana Network
in Spanish 2157 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] Today the Cuban Foreign Ministry and the Libyan communications office of the General People's Committee signed a legal and judicial assistance agreement and a cooperation plan.

Cuban Justice Minister Juan Escalona and Jadallah 'Azuz al-Talhi, head of the Libyan People's Foreign Liaison Bureau, signed the document.

The cooperation plan was also signed by the Libyan diplomat and Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca.

International Sugar By-Products Seminar Opens

*FL2405185688 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 May 88*

[Text] This morning an international seminar on sugarcane by-products opened at the Palace of Conventions in Havana. This event is part of the activities marking the anniversaries of the Cuban sugar industry and research institutes for sugarcane by-products. The 380 participants in the seminar will examine the present production alternatives for the sugar industry.

[Begin recording of Jose Selnan, executive secretary of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries] Sugar is the third-largest source of foreign currency for Latin America and the Caribbean. In 1974 in the so-called free market, Latin America received approximately \$6 billion for its sugar sales. Our estimates for 1987 are barely \$800 million, and we are talking about what is the third-largest source of foreign currency for our countries. [end recording]

This international seminar on sugarcane by-products will examine production possibilities of restructuring the sugar industry so that through diversification it can deal with the acute economic situation caused by the fall of sugar prices in sugar producing countries.

[Begin recording of Sugar Industry Minister Juan Ramon Herrera] This event is intended as an additional contribution to this purpose. The proof of this is the attendance of a large number of specialists from several sugar producing Latin American countries. These specialists are interested in the Cuban experience and want to share their own. This way, we can move towards the ever growing movement of Latin American integration which will make us stronger and free us from dependency. [end recording]

Espin, Simeon Closes Event

*FL2705023788 Havana Television Service in Spanish
0000 GMT 27 May 88*

[Text] PCC Politburo member Vilma Espin has chaired the closing of the international seminar on sugarcane by-products, which sat for 3 days at Havana's Palace of Conventions. The results demonstrated here are evidence of the development achieved by Cuba's sugar industry in by-products. The event has undoubtedly promoted an exchange of expertise and initiatives that have made for better Latin American cooperation and integration as a contribution to the growing development of the sugarcane by-products industry.

Rosa Elena Simeon, alternate member of the PCC Politburo, closed the event, stating:

[Begin Simeon recording] A demonstration of the results that have begun to materialize can be seen in the production of 60,000 tons of proteic molasses in 1987 to feed pigs and in the production of 450,000 tons of

predigested bagasse, 450,000 tons of molasses with urea, 222,000 tons of molasses-urea-bagasse, and 1.5 million tons of residue from collection centers processed by means of various alternatives for the feeding of cattle. We are also very pleased that the Cuban Institute for Sugarcane By-Products Research decided to celebrate its 25th anniversary by holding an activity of this nature and that the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries and the UN Development Program have co-sponsored this effort. [end recording]

Medical Technology Research Center Approved

*FL2705155688 Havana Radio Progreso Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 May 88*

[Text] The creation of a medical technology research center in Cuba for CEMA countries located in tropical areas has been approved during a meeting of that organization. The center will be in Santiago de Cuba and will receive medical equipment which will be mostly imported from capitalist areas.

U.S. Ship Carrying Marijuana Captured

*FL0105014188 Havana Television Service in Spanish
0000 GMT 1 Jun 88*

[Text] Units of the Border Guard Troops on Monday, 30 May, captured the U.S. ship "Caribbean King" when it violated Cuban territorial waters north of Moa, Holguin Province.

The ship was carrying 208 packages of marijuana weighing a total of 6,000 kg. The ship was manned by (Mauro Calletan) [name indistinct], a Miami resident of Cuban origin, and (Winston Desmond Berman) and (Octavio German de Marce Covez), citizens of the Dominican Republic.

The ship and its crew were turned over to the appropriate authorities. The drug was incinerated.

Antigua and Barbuda

New UN Envoy Named To Replace Lloydston Jacobs

*FL2705183088 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English
1130 GMT 27 May 88*

[Text] The Antiguan Government has named a replacement for its envoy to the United Nations who resigned earlier this year under a cloud of suspicion. The announcement from the prime minister's office says the country's council in Miami, Florida, Lionel Alexander, Jr, will replace former UN ambassador, LLOYDSTON JACOBS. Mr. Alexander will take office June 1.

Barbados

Former Bishop Press Aide Departed From Grenada

*FL2705200888 Bridgetown CANA in English
1501 GMT 27 May 88*

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 27, CANA—Don Rojas, former press aide to the late Prime Minister Maurice Bishop of Grenada, said here Friday he was deported from Grenada earlier in the day after the island's immigration authorities told him he was considered a security risk.

The Cuban-based Rojas, who was travelling to Grenada for a weekend convention of the leftist Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM), said that since he arrived there on the last flight Thursday, he was held overnight at central police station and put on the first flight out Friday morning.

"When I got in last night I was told by (Grenada) immigration that they were under instructions not to admit me into the country on the grounds that I was a security risk", Rojas told CANA.

The Vincentian political activist was once the editor of the FREE WEST INDIAN newspaper which was run by Bishop's New Jewel Movement (NJM) government, and during the NJM's rule was also Bishop's press aide. He was spirited out of Grenada after U.S. troops invaded the island in 1983 to restore order in the face of a bloody coup against the NJM.

Since the ouster of the NJM by radicals in the army and the party, Rojas has lived in Czechoslovakia and is currently resident in Cuba.

He said he was among several progressives including two members of the Cuban Communist Party invited to the first convention of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement.

The MBPM was formed by remnants of NJM members loyal to the Bishop line in the party after the prime minister's assassination five years ago.

Rojas said Barbados immigration granted him a four-day stay here.

Rojas Complains of Harassment

FL2805174488 Bridgetown CANA in English
1556 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 28, CANA—Don Rojas, former press aide to slain Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, on Saturday complained about treatment he received here by Barbadian immigration authorities when he arrived on the island after being expelled from Grenada.

Rojas' complaints were echoed by Barbadian attorney-at-law, Robert Bobby Clarke, a close friend of Rojas, with whom he is staying in Barbados before returning to his home in Cuba.

Rojas complained that Barbadian immigration officers at the Grantley Adams International Airport threatened to deport him from Barbados to St. Vincent and the Grenadines—where he was born—when he arrived on the flight from Grenada on Friday morning. He said that he was intensely questioned by security officers at the

airport, who interrogated him about his travels to Nicaragua, and about his role in the 1979-83 Bishop administration of Grenada. He said that he was held for about one hour by the authorities in Barbados, before finally being allowed to remain on the island for four days.

Rojas was ordered out of Grenada where he arrived Thursday night to attend the first convention of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM), a small political party formed by survivors of the pro-Bishop faction of the New Jewel Movement (NJM), which was wrecked by in-fighting in 1983 between hardliners led by Bishop's deputy, Bernard Coard, and moderates under Bishop's own leadership.

Rojas contrasted the treatment he received on Friday when he arrived here, with that he received in 1983, at the height of the military emergency in Grenada, noting that in 1983, he was allowed to enter Barbados without the kinds of harassment and threats which he received on Friday.

Clarke, in his statement, described the action taken by airport authorities here, as alarming and regrettable, pointing out that Rojas is a citizen of a Commonwealth Caribbean country. He suggested that the immigration and security authorities in Barbados acted in collaboration with the authorities in Grenada, and urged the government to issue a definitive statement on its overall policy of handling Caricom citizens coming into Barbados.

Rojas in the meantime, said he had sent off cables to St Lucia Prime Minister John Compton in his capacity as chairman of the seven-nation Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and to St Vincent Prime Minister James Mitchell regarding his expulsion from Grenada.

Rojas, who said he enjoyed immigrant status in Grenada and which to his knowledge had not been withdrawn, told Compton his expulsion was "contrary to the proposed arrangements for the new OECS state in which freedom of movement is one of the cornerstones." "In your capacity as chairman of the OECS, I request a statement as to my rights and the rights of other OECS citizens to travel within the subregion without any hindrance," added the cable.

In the cable to Mitchell, Rojas requested an investigation of his expulsion and a statement from the Vincentian leader "as to my rights as a Vincentian travelling within the OECS subregion."

Responding to statements by Grenada Prime Minister Herbert Blaize that his government would bar anyone seen as a threat to democracy from entering the island, Rojas said:

"As that refers to myself and other invitees to MBPM congress, we like Mr Blaize are fully dedicated to the principles of democracy both in theory and in practice."

He added: "We would hope that if an official of the undemocratic racist South African Government were to visit Grenada, that that person would suffer the same fate as myself..."

Rojas said he grew up as a child in Grenada where his father worked as an information officer in the early sixties in the then government which was headed by Blaize. As an adult, he lived in the Spice Island from 1979 to 1983 when he worked for the ill-fated Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG).

Dominican Republic

Power Outages Cause Heavy Losses for Businesses
FL2805141788 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1211 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] The interruptions in electrical service that had decreased over the past few days in comparison to previous occasions have resumed, creating serious inconveniences for trade, industrial, and domestic activities.

The power outages lasted more than 10 hours, causing heavy losses for industries and businesses.

Yesterday's energy crisis also caused major transportation problems because the principal streets did not have lights.

Grenada

Bishop Movement Protests Rojas Deportation
FL2805165788 Bridgetown CANA in English 2300 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] St George's, Grenada, May 27, CANA—The small leftwing Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) on Friday said it was withdrawing from the government-appointed National Advisory Committee coordinating Grenada's involvement in the proposed unification of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Party leader Kendrick Radix told reporters the decision was in retaliation at government's treatment of foreign delegates the party has invited here for its first-ever convention beginning on Saturday. Radix said the first person to fall victim was MPBM member, Vincentian-born Don Rojas, former press secretary of slain Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop after whom the party is named.

Rojas, who is based in Cuba, reported that he was held incommunicado on his arrival in the country Thursday night and deported early Friday on the grounds that he was a national security risk.

Radix said the MBPM could not be expected to take part in promoting OECS political unity when nationals from the same sub-regional grouping were being prevented from entering Grenada.

Government's action against Rojas was a clear abandonment of all "pretense of fairness, openness, and the deprivation" of free travel by the people of the OECS, he said.

"...We wish to serve notice to the administration today that the executive of our party have decided that I would no longer represent our party politically or as an individual on this commission in retaliation."

"We say to them that if Don Rojas is a national security risk and he was in Grenada, why did they not arrest him and charge him with an offence against the state", he added.

Shortly after the press conference, the MBPM reported that another of its foreign invitees representing the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa was barred at the Point Salines International Airport.

The party said the official—Themba Ntinja, who is based in New York with the ANC observer mission—was not allowed into the country although he was granted an entry visa by the Grenada mission in New York.

Government officials could not be reached for comment on the alleged deportation.

Radix, a former minister in Bishop's Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG), said government had also informed the MBPM that it would not grant entry visas to its invitees from Cuba since there was no diplomatic relations between the two states.

He said this was a "most flimsy and one-sided excuse" since there were over 150 Grenadians studying in Cuba on free scholarships. Radix also said a number of Grenadians frequently travelled to Havana to receive medical treatment and to visit family members.

"...This has been going on with the knowledge of the Government of Grenada, and therefore, if we can send people over there, we certainly can receive people over here because there is always reciprocity in international relations," he said.

Radix accused the United States of issuing instructions to the authorities here not to allow the Cubans in.

Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon broke off diplomatic relations with Cuba shortly after American troops invaded the island to restore order following the execution of Bishop in a 1983 palace coup. Prior to this, Grenada was Cuba's closest ally in the English-speaking Caribbean.

Radix accused government of using national security as a mask to frustrate "the normal political rights of our political party."

"We ask for no confrontation. We ask for cooperation. We ask for prudence and patience rather than further persecution of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement," he remarked.

Radix said that the party was demanding and expected to receive the same economic, social, constitutional and political rights and norms as other Grenadians.

"We say there should be freedom for everybody or freedom for none because we cannot be expected to live in a lop-sided society," he added.

Radix said the MBPM would be going ahead with its convention as planned during which the party is expected to bring its manifesto up to date.

Prime Minister Blaize Cited

FL2805165888 Bridgetown CANA in English
1531 GMT 28 May 88

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, May 28, CANA—Grenada's Prime Minister Herbert Blaize said Friday night his government would refuse entry to anyone posing a threat to democracy.

In his weekly radio and television broadcast to the nation, he stressed that government's primary concern was the welfare of the island and the preservation of democracy. His remarks were made against the backdrop of the expulsion earlier in the day of Vincentian-born Don Rojas, who had arrived to attend a weekend convention of the small leftwing Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MPBM).

The Cuban-based Rojas, who had served as press secretary to late leftwing Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, was deemed a national security risk by the authorities.

The MPBM, named after Bishop who headed the ill-fated 1979-83 Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG), also reported that another invitee to the convention, a New York-based official of the African National Congress (ANC), had been barred from entering the country.

Blaize said the government would deny entry to persons committed to the destruction of democracy and bent on sowing discontent to achieve this goal.

"Government has a duty and a responsibility to defend the nation against subversion," said Blaize, who is also the minister of national security.

"Progress can only be achieved through peace, and stability, and it is the responsibility of government and citizens to ensure that the basis for peace, progress, and stability are jealously guarded," he added.

Three days ago Blaize had written the MBPM in response to a request for government to help facilitate the smooth entry into the country of overseas delegates invited to the party

convention. He informed the party that those officials from outside the Caribbean Community (Caricom) would have to obtain entry visas, while Caricom nationals would be dealt with on an individual basis.

The MBPM is committed to pursuing the policies and programmes initiated by Bishop's PRG during its 1979-83 rule.

U.S. troops invaded Grenada in October 1983 to restore order shortly after Bishop was killed in a bitter leadership feud involving radicals and moderates within his New Jewel Movement (NJM).

Meanwhile, a source close to the MBPM said another delegate was expelled on Saturday, but that the ANC representative, Themba Ntinja, was eventually allowed in by the authorities on Friday.

The expelled delegate was said to be an official of the Oilfields Workers Union (OWTU) of Trinidad and Tobago.

Banned Visitors List Disclosed

FL3005174188 Bridgetown CANA in English
1845 GMT 28 May 88

[By George Worme]

[Excerpts] St. George's, Grenada, May 28, CANA—Grenadian security officials, commenting on Friday's expulsion of Vincentian political activist Don Rojas, on Saturday named other Caribbean leftwing politicians on whom there is an official entry ban.

The list included Tim Hector, leader of the Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement; George Odlum, a former St. Lucia deputy prime minister who leads the small progressive Labour Party; Peter Josie, an elected opposition parliamentarian and deputy leader of the St. Lucia Labour Party; opposition Dominica parliamentarian Rosie Douglas, and Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, leader of the movement for National Unity (MNU) party of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

One official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told CANA other undesirables included Jamaica-born Richard Hart who served as attorney-general in the leftist government that held power here from 1979 to 1983, and Trinidadian Trade Unionist David Abdullah, who was reportedly expelled from the island early on Saturday. Official confirmation was not immediately available. [passage omitted]

"(Rojas) has a track record of disruptive posturing and as such the government exercised its sovereign right and said no way to him," the security official said. The official added: "We have a right to protect our nationals in here against disruptive elements and people who have a track record of ideologies that is not compatible with ours." [passage omitted]

The official said contrary to claims by the MBPM [Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement] authorities had allowed in a representative of South Africa's African National Congress (ANC) for the conference. The ANC official is staying at the home of Dessima Williams, who served under the Bishop government as Grenada's ambassador to the organization of American States (OAS). On the government's refusal to allow entry to two Cuban Communist Party representatives, the official said Havana did not approach Grenada for entry visas. He said MBPM executive member Terry Marryshow raised the matter which was referred to an immigration official who turned it down on the grounds that there was no diplomatic relations between the two countries. In addition, the official said, Grenadian authorities regarded the two Cuban representatives as agents of both the Cuban and Russian secret services.

The official also indicated that government would not accede to the MBPM's request for representatives from Libya to enter Grenada for the convention. "We have no diplomatic relations with Libya and as such no Libyans are allowed here", he said. "We are quite clear that Libya is involved in subversive action and terrorist action in the Caribbean and as such we do not want Libyan officials to enter state".

Guyanese Journalist Banned

*FL3105033588 Bridgetown CANA in English
1639 GMT 31 May 88*

[Excerpt] St. George's, Grenada, May 29, CANA—Guyanese journalist Rickey Singh is among several Caribbean nationals whose names are on a restrictive entry list in Grenada, well-placed sources said. One security official told CANA that Singh's name has been put on the "black list" because he is considered a "major" security risk.

Singh, a freelance journalist who is based on Barbados, is the president of the Caribbean Media Workers Association (Camwork).

The disclosure on the list followed Friday's deportation from the island of Don Rojas, a former aide of the late Marxist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. The Cuba-based journalist was seeking entry to attend this weekend's convention of the small Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM). [passage omitted]

MBPM Holds Convention, Changes Leadership

*FL3105124588 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English
1130 GMT 31 May 88*

[Text] The Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement in Grenada ended its party convention over the weekend with changes in its leadership. The convention attracted several foreigners, including an American presidential candidate, James M. Warren, of the little-known Socialist

Workers' Party [SWP] of America. He was accompanied by Miss Rena Cacoullous, the national secretary of the Young Socialist Alliance, which is the youth arm of the SWP. The other foreigner was Themba Ntinja, deputy representative of the observer mission of the African National Congress, the ANC, at the United Nations.

Marryshow Named Party Head

*FL3105145788 Bridgetown CANA in English
1417 GMT 31 May 88*

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, May 31, CANA—A Cuban-trained doctor, Terry Marryshow, has replaced former industrialization minister Kendrick Radix as leader of the small leftwing Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) in Grenada.

The party said that Radix, who led the MBPM since its formation in 1984, was bowing out of "front-line" politics as a result of failing health. Radix told CANA his illness was related to diabetes which had been affecting him for several years.

In his first public statement, Marryshow said that he was accepting the job with "pride" since he regards the MBPM as the party through which he can make a contribution to the "struggling people" of Grenada.

Marryshow, 35, was given the top party post at the MBPM's first convention held over the weekend in the rural parish of St. John.

Party member Einstein Louison, who announced the leadership change at a public meeting, said that Marryshow's responsibility would be to build the youth arm of the party. Louison, a former chief of staff in Grenada's disbanded Peoples' Revolutionary Army (PRA), introduced himself as the party's deputy political leader.

The MBPM also elected Benny Langaigne, a former permanent secretary in the office of the prime minister, financial secretary.

Haiti

Civic Groups Express Concern Over Crime Wave

*FL2805132188 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English
1300 GMT 28 May 88*

[Text] Three civic groups in Haiti are calling on the government to do more to halt rising crime. More than 25 people have been killed in recent weeks.

The Haitian Chamber of Commerce expressed concern over the wave of violence in the capital yesterday and urged authorities to take the necessary measures to stop crime. The Chamber of Commerce added that these acts of violence are destroying all efforts that are now being made to ensure the country's economic development.

Economic Pact Agreements for June-August
PA2905174788 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish
24 May 88 p 9

["Text" of Economic Solidarity Pact agreements for June, July, and August issued in Mexico City on 22 May]

[Text] 1. In April and so far in May, the Economic Solidarity Pact's [PSE] Follow-Up and Assessment Commission has paid attention to the country's economy. It has done this task through analyzing diverse information submitted by the federal government and by the labor, peasant, and business sectors. A particularly close watch has been kept on price changes, public finances, monetary reserves, interest rates, and the stock market.

2. Based on the study conducted by these sectors and the government, the following conclusions are made:

a) Prices have remained within the foreseen course and have showed a noticeable reduction in April and May. The inflation rate for April reached 3.1 percent. It is expected that May's rate will be below 2 percent. This rate would allow the PSE to reach its original goals before the end of the first half of the year.

b) Regarding basic food products, the corresponding price index rose by 1.3 percent in April. It is estimated that it will rise by less than 0.5 percent in May. As for public finances, the figures for the first quarter of the year show an increase in public revenue in real terms of 9.6 percent, compared with the same period in 1987. Moreover, the public sector budget's programmed expenditures diminished in real terms by 8.7 percent during the same period.

c) The behavior of our economy's external sector has also been satisfactory. Nonoil exports have continued with great vitality, rising 24 percent in the first quarter of 1988, compared with the same period last year.

d) The chief indicators of monetary, credit, and exchange policies reveal that the behavior of the major economic variables is compatible with the guidelines of the anti-inflationary strategy that was adopted. It is worth noting that in the financial sector, the country's international reserves are solid and there is a strong downward trend in the active interest rates applied to banking loans. In most cases, these rates have dropped close to 100 percentage points.

3. The economy and particularly the level of prices during the past 2 months have confirmed that the decisions adopted on 28 March were correct. Diverse economic indicators irrefutably prove it.

Considering all of the above, the three sectors and the government have decided to extend the terms of the agreement for June, July, and August. That decision will

strengthen the producers', merchants', and service providers' confidence regarding costs. This way, an economic climate favorable to stability is created.

The stability of prices achieved and the agreement for June, July, and August will ensure that all consumers, as has been happening in April and May, will be able to adequately plan their expenditures.

In view of the aforementioned considerations, the sectors and the government have reached the following agreement:

1. In June, July, and August, the federal government will not raise the prices of goods and services produced by the public sector.

2. Financial authorities will keep the peso exchange rate to the dollar fixed until 31 August.

3. The labor and business sectors have agreed not to request any revision of minimum wages during the months of June, July, and August. Therefore, existing minimum wages will have to remain at their current level.

4. In view of the above, the Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development [SECOFIN] will not authorize any increase in the prices of goods and services subject to its control during the months of June, July, and August.

5. For the same reasons, products subject to registration by SECOFIN should not increase during June, July, and August.

6. Considering that the consumer and producer price indexes prepared by the Bank of Mexico reveal a drop in the prices of a large number of items and that, likewise, in May the rate of decreases can also be expected to be greater; that some costs are dropping; and that the situation of the market is contributing to the stabilization, and sometimes the reduction, of prices, the business sector feels that it is appropriate that those enterprises that can do so should decrease their prices to benefit the purchasing power of wages. The business sector feels this way based on the spirit that prompted it to sign the PSE.

7. Adjustments to guaranteed prices will be made according to the demands of the agricultural calendar and based on the terms of the PSE. The federal government reaffirms its commitment to maintain these prices at their actual 1987 levels. It also pledges to support field production by granting sufficient and timely credit at decreasing interest rates and with adequate insurance coverage.

Free importation of machinery, agricultural supplies, and used transportation equipment has been authorized in order to increase production in the countryside. The federal government will adopt additional steps deemed necessary for this purpose.

The labor, peasant, and business sectors and the federal government feel that in order to consolidate progress achieved, it is necessary to continue with follow-up and agreement efforts, at least until President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado's administration ends. The sectors deem the president's appeal in this respect to be of the utmost importance. The president issued this appeal when the agreement for April and May was made. They [the sectors and the federal government] fully agree on the need to jointly succeed in lowering inflation to levels compatible with those of countries with which Mexico conducts most of its international trade.

The labor, peasant, and business sectors and the federal government reaffirm in all their terms the commitments made in the PSE, which was signed on 15 December 1987 in the presence of President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado. They reiterate their willingness to extend compliance with and to promote the development of all the adopted measures and decisions.

Mexico, 22 May 1988

Witness of honor: Miguel de la Madrid

For the federal government: Arsenio Farrel Cubillas, Secretary of Labor and Social Welfare; Pedro Aspe Armella, Secretary of Planning and Budget; Hector Hernandez Cervantes, Secretary of SECOFIN; Gustavo Petricoli, Secretary of Finance and Public Credit; Manuel Bartlett Diaz, Secretary of Government

For the labor sector: Jorge Sanchez Garcia, President of the Labor Congress; Fidel Velazquez, Secretary General of the Confederation of Mexican Workers; Igancio Cuauhtemoc Paleta, Secretary General of the Mexican Workers Regional Confederation; Roberto Castellanos Tovar, [no title as published] Revolutionary Confederation of Workers and Peasants; Francisco Hernandez Juarez, Secretary General of the Telephone Workers Union

For the peasant sector: Hector H. Olivares Ventura, Secretary General of the National Peasant Confederation [CNC]; Javier Padilla Ahumada, President of the National Confederation of Agricultural, Livestock, and Forestry Properties; Francisco Merino Rabago, Coordinating Secretary of the Unions of the CNC's National Council

For the business sector: Agustin Legorreta, President of the Business Coordinating Council; Jose Chapa Zalazar, President of the National Chambers of Commerce; Vicente H. Bortoni Gonzalez de Cosio, President of the Confederation of Industrial Chambers; Jorge Ochoa Moreno, President of the Mexican Employers Confederation; Jorge Kahwagi Gastine, President of the National Association of the Processing Industry; Manuel Unanue, President of the National Agricultural Council

Briefs

1st Quarter Debt Figures

The federal government's internal debt increased 24.8 percent during the 1st quarter of 1988, bringing the total to 76.9 trillion pesos. In contrast, the foreign debt dropped \$125.8 million, bringing the Mexican balance owed to the international financial community to \$81.281 billion, 0.15 percent less than the last figure registered in 1987. According to a report on the evolution of the economy and the public debt during the 1st quarter of 1988 published by the Finance, Planning, and Budget Secretariats, "the productive activity, investments, and employment continued to show signs of the recovery that began in the second half of 1987, especially in the employment level." [Summary] [PA3105035688 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 28 May 88 pp 1, 16]

Trade Balance Surplus

Pedro Loredó Vera, technical director of customs operations, has announced that for the first 4 months of this year the trade balance showed a surplus of \$2.736 billion, which will have an important effect on foreign exchange receipts and on the reduction of the country's dependence on a single export. He added that oil exports increased by 6.9 percent and other exports by 20.7 percent. [Summary] [PA3105173488 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 28 May 88 p 9]

Antidrug Operation Results

The Attorney General's Office reports that operation "Pacific VII," an 8-month antinarcotics operation, resulted in 3,588 arrests and the destruction of over 44,000 marijuana and poppy plants covering 5,388 hectares. During the same period, 196,000 kg of marijuana and 7,499 kg of cocaine from various South American countries was seized and destroyed. The operation was carried out in Sinaloa, Nayarit, Jalisco, Michoacan, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Sonora, Chihuahua, Durango, and Chiapas. [Summary] [PA2805132088 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 25 May 88 p 12]

Costa Rica

Arias Responds to Charges of Impropriety

PA2705155288 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish
1200 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] President Oscar Arias has said that to date, no one has filed formal charges against any high-ranking official of his administration. Answering a letter sent by Social Christian presidential hopeful Miguel Angel Rodriguez, President Arias said that to date, no one has accused any of his aides of being involved in drug trafficking. He added that he was using this occasion to reiterate to the country that he will not hesitate to act against such conduct. Arias said in his reply to Rodriguez: I hope you will admit that we have not hesitated to expel from the country any foreigner who is undesirable or is of dubious character because this is necessary to prevent such scourges in Costa Rica. Later in his letter, President Arias said he also hopes that Rodriguez will admit that he has faithfully kept his promises.

The letter to Rodriguez added: You charge that in the last campaign, a National Liberation Party (PLN) member asked a foreigner for aid, and since that member is Deputy Security Minister Rogelio Castro Pinto, I asked him to explain this situation this afternoon. The president said there is no reason why he should hide that in the last campaign his party received contributions from thousands of individuals, some of whom were foreigners.

In his letter, President Arias said that campaign contributions from foreigners do not essentially constitute a bad practice as long as such contributions are not made to obtain political influence. Nevertheless, the president added, I want to ask you to join our efforts to support the amendment proposed by PLN presidential hopefuls Carlos Manuel Castillo and Rolando Araya to force political parties to disclose the amount and origin of those donations. Arias said that in the next period of special sessions he plans to send such a bill to the Legislative Assembly.

U.S. Central American Policy Criticized

PA2705180288 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish
19 May 88 p 14-A

[Editorial: "Sins of Action and Omission"]

[Text] The immaturity, rashness, and moral fickleness of a group of U.S. officials is beating down on Central America.

Two extremely serious elements have been added to the illegality of the "Iran-contra" scandal, thoroughly investigated by the U.S. Senate: drug trafficking as a means to purchase weapons for the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN], and General Noriega's "rehabilitation," apparently brought on by the fact that he knows the methods used and the U.S. officials involved in drug trafficking in Panama.

The link between drug trafficking and the supply of weapons to the RN not only morally weakens that organization, but also harms the U.S. Government's credibility. What is worse, this link strengthens Daniel Ortega's position. The Nicaraguan people's final objective, their liberation, has suffered serious blows from three sides: from the U.S. Congress and its systematic refusal to approve military aid, a refusal that has gotten stronger because of this new scandal; from the division among the RN's executive cadres; and from the involvement of drug money in the struggle for liberation. All these blunders clearly explain the ultimatum given by Daniel Ortega to the RN: total surrender or annihilation.

This chain of blunders will also be deadly for the [Arias] peace plan. If in the beginning Daniel Ortega used this document to suit himself, from now on he will not even have to pretend otherwise. Therefore, the main objective of Esquipulas II—democratization as a means to guarantee peace—is farther than ever from the Central American scene. This weakening, together with the struggles within the Christian Democratic Party in El Salvador, which discredit President Duarte's government, no doubt encourages the FMLN and the Guatemalan guerrillas. Thus, the old principle of not negotiating with groups involved in violence without moral or military strength is proven true.

Likewise, the situation in Panama is serious. U.S. officials had predicted that Gen Noriega would receive a final blow. This was not the case. The economic measures claimed only one victim: the Panamanian people. From that moment on, the U.S. Government tried every possible tactic to remove Noriega from his throne, but after 3 months of political skirmishes those tactics, drafted without serious thinking, unskillfully implemented, and without specific objectives, Noriega has come out the winner. A connoisseur of certain secrets about drug trafficking, Noriega has made the U.S. Government his hostage. It now seems the U.S. Government will dismiss all charges against Noriega. However, it is not known whether this will be done to find a solution to the problem or to buy his silence.

This victory explains Noriega's position in Panama in the past few days. He is constantly challenging U.S. policies, he is touring the country, he is strengthening his party, and from his political platform he has announced a probable presidential candidacy and, of course, constant charges of acts of subversion against the government and against his undisputed power.

In other words, this spells catastrophe for Central America, and above all for Costa Rica. The joining of the great sins of omission, on the part of the Latin American countries, and action, on the part of the U.S. Government, have placed us in an uncertain and unsafe situation.

El Salvador

Duarte Leaves for U.S. Medical Treatment

PA0106013888 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
2334 GMT 31 May 88

[Text] San Salvador, 31 May (ACAN-EFE)—Today Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte left for the United States to undergo specialized medical tests for a "bleeding gastric ulcer."

The diplomatic corps, the government cabinet, and personal friends saw him off at 1500 (2100 GMT), when President Duarte boarded a Washington-bound U.S. Air Force C-141 plane at Ilopango Air Base, on the outskirts of San Salvador.

Prior to his departure, Duarte shook hands with everyone at the platform. He was accompanied by his wife, Ines Duran; Ricardo Alvarenga Valdivieso, president of the Legislative Assembly; and Francisco Jose Guerrero, president of the Supreme Court of Justice.

Speaking before reporters, the president said: "What I have is a 7-cm, malignant, bleeding ulcer, with a reserved diagnosis, waiting for medical tests. That is why I am going to the United States, so it could be examined."

Duarte, who looked emaciated, stated that "the plans of God are unpredictable. Now he is sending me this test, but I am going to fight and I will make it."

His wife and three children were crying, waiting for the president while he stated he was "a man of battle, of crisis, who struggles against all problems, the crisis, the earthquake, and three droughts."

Meanwhile, Communications Minister Roberto Viera said Duarte will stay in Washington "for an indefinite period of time," without specifying what hospital would treat the president.

According to U.S. reports, the president will go to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, which specializes in cancer.

However, Ernesto Rivas Gallont, Salvadoran ambassador to the United States, denied Duarte's stomach ulcer is cancerous.

Meanwhile, foreign advisers to the government unofficially said that the president has cancer and that Salvadoran doctors have performed 30 exploratory biopsies.

The wives of several ambassadors accredited in El Salvador confirmed the report, although they admitted the president "has not lost his spirit, even though he looks emaciated."

Vice President Rodolfo Castillo Claramount will be acting president throughout Duarte's stay in the United States.

Castillo Claramount kissed the president good-bye. Prior to boarding the vehicle that took him to the plane, the president wished "good luck" to everyone there.

The president is traveling with his wife and his son, Alejandro.

Rivera y Damas: 'Law of the Jungle' Reappears

PA3005033088 Paris AFP in Spanish 2105 GMT
29 May 88

[Text] San Salvador, 29 May (AFP)—Today San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas said "the law of the jungle" has reappeared again in the country, where death squads killed thousands in the past few years.

During the traditional Sunday homily at the Metropolitan Cathedral, Rivera y Damas reported that Jose Abraham Rivera was shot by death squads on Thursday in San Antonio Abad, in the western outskirts of San Salvador. The corpse, Rivera y Damas said, "showed the signs of death squad victims: hands tied behind his back, blindfolded eyes, and his head mutilated."

People who witnessed the murder told the media that four men with their faces covered by handkerchiefs took Jose Abraham Rivera, who was still alive, out of a vehicle and shot him at close range.

Judicial authorities reported that another victim of the death squads was found on the road from San Salvador to Santa Ana, but the corpse had been set on fire and could not be identified. According to the Human Rights Commission, in the first 4 months of this year the death squads killed 40 civilians, kidnapped 48, and wounded 25.

Archbishop Rivera y Damas also said the San Salvador Episcopal Conference met yesterday with President Jose Napoleon Duarte, who is suffering from a "very complicated gastric ulcer." "We saw he was very sick," Rivera y Damas said, adding that "we are in solidarity with the president."

Duarte will travel to the United States for a medical checkup on Tuesday, leaving Vice President Rodolfo Castillo Claramount in charge of the government.

Guatemala

3 Colonels Involved in Foiled Coup Dismissed

PA3105150688 Paris AFP in Spanish 0245 GMT
31 May 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 30 May (AFP)—Today the government disclosed that three military base commanders were removed from their posts for their participation in the foiled coup d'etat attempt of 11 May.

Defense Minister General Alejandro Gramajo said that the dismissed officers are Colonels Guillermo Vargas, Arturo Jeteya, and Edgar Solis, commanders, respectively, of the military bases at Zacapa, east of Guatemala City; Jutiapa, in the southwestern part of Guatemala; and the Tactical Security Group of the Guatemalan Air Force (FAG).

The three are charged with "negligence" [omission] with regard to the 11 May events, Gramajo said during a news conference.

The new Zacapa commander is Colonel Gustavo Mendez Herrera, Colonel Lorenzo Castellanos is the new commander of the FAG Tactical Security Group, and Colonel Mario Garcia will become the commander of the western military base at Retalhuleu, replacing Colonel Edgar Eugenio Mendez, who will become the commander at Jutiapa.

The minister announced that National Police Director Colonel Julio Caballeros will have to leave his post prior to 14 July, which is the expiration date of the permit granted by the Armed Forces to military men with public administration jobs.

Following the foiled uprising that began at the military bases of Jutiapa and Retalhuleu, the Army arrested six military men, including three colonels, suspended three more, and discharged one.

Two officers who had been dismissed for "acts of indiscipline" were later arrested.

The government filed charges against both of them and against six rightist "radical civilians" for their alleged links with the rebellion.

According to the local press, there was a new "act of indiscipline" at the FAG, but no details were disclosed.

TASS, PRENSA LATINA Reporters Ordered To Leave
PA2805043088 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1747 GMT 27 May 88

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 27 May (ACAN-EFE)—Vinicio Cerezo's government has ordered the Soviet TASS and Cuban PRENSA LATINA correspondents to leave Guatemala "temporarily" because "they were bringing no benefits to the country." This was announced today by Guatemalan Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera, who added that "I was always opposed to the presence of those news agencies in our country." [passage omitted]

It was learned today that the government, through Public Affairs Secretary Claudia Arenas, warned TASS correspondent Aleksandr Trushin and PRENSA LATINA

correspondent Manuel Guerrero Torres at a joint meeting last week that "their stay in the country could not be guaranteed." For that reason, they were advised to leave the country "for some time" and return later on, without specifying dates.

Foreign Minister Cabrera said, however, that "I always opposed the presence of TASS and PRENSA LATINA." [passage omitted]

Cabrera stressed: "Had I had to authorize the entrance of correspondents from those socialist countries, they would not have been given visas." He said that Trushin left Guatemala "following orders from the General Immigration Directorate."

Nicaragua

EPS Head Says Contras Not Observing Cease-Fire
PA2805145588 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1930 GMT 27 May 88

[Excerpts] The mercenary forces have not observed a cease-fire at all. In the last 60 days they have murdered 44 people, wounded 85, and kidnapped 286, Major Ricardo Wheelock, chief of EPS military intelligence and member of the government delegation to the talks with the mercenary leadership, disclosed at noon today. During the same period of time, the mercenary forces carried out 144 attacks and 16 ambushes against EPS troops and positions, Maj Wheelock added.

The chief of military intelligence also said the U.S. Air Force has carried out 36 espionage flights in recent days, and 35 tactical flights have taken off from the area on the Nicaraguan border. Maj Wheelock estimates that there are still some 1,500 to 2,500 mercenaries inside the country. The high-ranking officer also disclosed an important U.S. newspaper published photographs taken in 1983 claiming these showed alleged EPS activities in order to obtain military aid for the mercenary forces. Maj Wheelock made these statements during a news conference on the status of the conversations with the mercenary leadership.

The mercenary leadership announced it has to leave the country tomorrow, but Maj Wheelock hopes a specific agreement will be reached in spite of the short period of time. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Major, what do the U.S. congressional maneuvers have to do with this situation?

[Wheelock] I think the contras went to Washington to lobby the Republican Party. They are bitter over what failed them yesterday. Their stand was firm, inflexible, but as of yesterday afternoon we have observed a change. In Congress they changed their stand of renewing military assistance in October and allowing the CIA to intervene in providing supplies and other activities. [passage omitted]

We are going to continue negotiating, we are going to continue searching for peace in spite of the contras' internal difficulties. Their current situation is the result of their contradictions, of their contradictory stands. More than an organization, they are a corporation of counterrevolutionary organizations, military and political organizations. We have made [words indistinct] since the signing at Sapoa, and that is what we are doing.

[Reporter] Maj Wheelock, the U.S. press reported 2 days ago that the Sandinist government was gathering military supplies and mentioned such places as Cebaco, Waspan, and others. They even refer to some photographs taken inside Nicaragua. What do you say about that?

[Wheelock] About the photographs, first, the photographs they print were taken early in May. The installations that appear in those photographs, I can tell you—with full responsibility—those are 1983 installations. Therefore, they are not unknown to U.S. intelligence. The interesting thing about those photographs is that they are linked to what happened yesterday at the U.S. Congress. They have waged an entire campaign in the United States to say that we are preparing to eliminate the contras. To that effect, they print a picture of an airport in Waspan. The military installations that appear there date back to 1983, and they claim this is part of our arms race and our desire to eliminate those forces.

Let me give you some information about some things the Americans have done in recent months. For example, in May, the Americans carried out 26 strategic military intelligence flights, of which 11 were carried out in F-130 planes [as heard]. They have not carried out any flights with the F-131 planes [as heard], and no more than four flights with [name indistinct] planes. However, they have carried out 35 tactical flights along the border with planes that are based in Honduras in order to frighten our troops. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Violations Listed

PA0106043788 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
0314 GMT 1 Jun 88

["Official report" issued by the Defense Ministry Public Relations Office in Managua on 31 May]

[Text] The Defense Ministry hereby reports that:

During the period of time that offensive military operations were suspended—between 1 April and 30 May, as agreed upon at Sapoa by the constitutional government of Nicaragua and the mercenary forces of the Reagan administration—the following warmongering activities took place, which clearly shows the sabotage effect of the peace negotiations the U.S. Administration is directing mainly through the former Somozist guard, Colonel Enrique Bermudez:

1. Total number of enemy actions: 178, including ambushes; attacks on settlements, production centers, and cooperatives; attacks on our troops; sabotage; and kidnappings.

2. Casualties as a result of the aforementioned activities: 594 [figure as heard]:

a) 362 civilians; of which 24 were killed, 26 wounded, and 312 kidnapped.

b) 80 of our troops; of which 18 were killed, 46 wounded, and 16 missing.

c) 103 of the mercenary forces; of which 77 were killed, and 26 captured.

3. During the same period of time, 49 people accepted the amnesty. All of them are former members of the counterrevolution. The most noteworthy of them is the important former chief of the counterrevolution, Felix Hernandez Garcia, also known as Alfa Lima.

4. Airspace violations by aircraft coming from Honduras and Costa Rica: 43, all directed by the mercenary forces for resupply or reconnaissance.

5. Attacks by piranha boats: two, coming from Honduran territory in the Gulf of Fonseca against the Sandinist Navy at Potosi and El Maranoral, in Chinandega.

6. Provocations and harassments by the Honduran Army: During this same period of time, this type of activity continued to support the various movements of the mercenaries. The most recent incident was the action carried out at 1950 on 24 May by Honduran Army troops who attacked the observation post at Murupuchi, 17 km northeast of Jalapa, using 50-mm machine guns and M-79 grenade launchers.

7. Military presence of the United States in Honduras: 5,000, including permanent troops and those participating in exercises of the U.S. forces in Honduras. During this same period of time, the United States carried out 27 strategic air reconnaissance flights against Nicaragua. Of these, 20 flights were carried out with the C-130, 4 with the RP-135, and 3 with the AT-130.

9. [number as heard] Air tactical reconnaissance flights by the United States against Nicaragua: 52, of which 38 were carried out with the RU-21, and 14 with the OV-1.

10. Naval harassment and reconnaissance by the United States against Nicaragua: ARN-24 [word indistinct]. Reconnaissance and surveillance in the Pacific: The NP frigate for reconnaissance and surveillance in the Pacific, and three reconnaissance and surveillance units in the Atlantic. [sentence as heard]

11. U.S. military transport flights to Honduras: 65, including C-5, C-141, and C-130 planes. Most of these flights originated at Charleston Air Base, North Carolina [as heard]; Kelly, Texas; and Howard, in Panama.

12. Illegal assistance from the United States to the counterrevolutionaries: From 27 to 30 May, the counterrevolutionary forces in Honduras received, through AID, 16 C-130 planes from Charleston Air Base, North Carolina, U.S.A., that arrived at Toncontin International Airport, Honduras. These planes brought supplies for the counterrevolutionaries in that country. This materiel was unloaded and taken in trucks from Toncontin to the Arenales area, El Paraiso Department, bordering Nicaragua, where the counterrevolutionary forces have their main supply centers.

13. Meetings with the counterrevolutionaries: In spite of the efforts made by the warmongering forces that are led by a former National Guardsman, Enrique Bermudez, to prevent these meetings, our troops have kept contact with various counterrevolutionary factions in the area.

14. The EPS has ordered its troops to strictly comply with the cease-fire that was announced by the president of the Republic and that will be in effect until 30 June 1988. Any actions directed by the former Somoza colonel, Enrique Bermudez, will be strongly repelled by the EPS and the Interior Ministry authorities according to the laws of the Republic.

Issued in Managua on 31 May 1988

[Signed] Defense Ministry Public Relations Office

Opposition Leader, RN's Cesar Comment on Talks
PA2905232988 Managua Radio Corporacion
in Spanish 0400 GMT 28 May 88

[Interview with Julio Ramon Garcia Vilchez, first vice president of the Social Christian Party, and RN Directorate member Alfredo Cesar by unidentified reporter "a few hours ago" following a meeting between the RN and the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board, CDN, at the CDN headquarters in Managua—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpt] [Garcia] ...progress and possibilities of reaching an agreement. As for our meeting with RN members here at CDN headquarters, we learned that both the government proposal and the most recent RN proposal are still under discussion.

We learned that it is not true that the RN proposal was rejected and that only the government proposal is under discussion. They just informed us that the commissions are discussing both proposals and hope to reach basic agreements by the end of the meetings at noon tomorrow. We were also told that the RN will leave tomorrow afternoon.

I believe we cannot yet make an assessment of the overall negotiations. As for the CDN-RN meeting, we believe the RN managed to break the government blockade with this meeting with the CDN at its headquarters.

We must still wait to see whether the RN will also manage to meet with the 14 political parties involved in the national dialogue that will meet tomorrow at 1000 at the Constitutionalist Liberal Party headquarters. The government committed itself to allowing this at the national dialogue. We hope the RN will again be able to break its isolation and attend the meeting of the 14 political parties; if not all of the RN representatives, at least a delegation.

[Reporter] What is your opinion about this meeting?

[Cesar] The meeting allowed an exchange that we had been seeking since we last set foot here in Nicaragua. We had a serious exchange with the domestic opposition parties gathered in the CDN, the independent labor unions, and the organized private sector. They gave us their assessments of the country's situation and their views on our negotiations with the FSLN.

[Reporter] Was a tripartite dialogue discussed?

[Cesar] Of course, all leaders expressed high hopes that the RN will join the dialogue as soon as possible to allow all three forces—the civilian opposition, the RN, and the government—to further the debate and profound discussion of each problem, which cannot be accomplished within our negotiation with the Sandinists alone, because we discuss overall issues within a general framework to stop the war. We discuss these democratic issues in the hope that they will actually be implemented. For us, therefore, the national dialogue is a vital instrument. The RN expressed hope that it will join it as soon as possible.

[Reporter] Do you believe the law on military service will be repealed?

[Cesar] That is one of our top priorities, along with the release of political prisoners. We will struggle to achieve this.

[Reporter] Will you visit the headquarters of the 14 political parties?

[Cesar] I do not know whether we will have time during this round. This is the first meeting we have been able to hold with opposition political parties. A precedent has been established. Obviously, if we do not have enough time because of the negotiations, we will most probably visit them during the next round.

[Reporter] What about visiting the Episcopal Conference?

[Cesar] The cardinal told us that most bishops are not in Managua. We agreed with his eminence to meet on another occasion. [passage omitted]

RN Says EPS 'Tricked,' Arrested 3 Commanders
PA2805124588 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
2240 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 27 May (ACAN-EFE)—The EPS "tricked" three contra commanders and arrested them, a Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] spokesman told ACAN-EFE today. In a telephone call from Miami, the source said the arrested commanders were "Alfa Lima," "Esteli," and "Walter," who were "invited to participate in a dialogue but were later arrested."

One of the contra commanders was presented at the Las Mercedes Hotel in Managua and was forced to say he had turned himself over to the Sandinist authorities, the source added. The arrests took place in the middle of this week in Chontales and Jinotega Departments, central and northern regions of Nicaragua, respectively.

The source pointed out that since the cease-fire began 2 months ago, the Sandinists have arrested several RN fighters. He added that today the RN was trying to notify the RN leaders who are currently in Managua about the three arrests so the rebel leaders could take the proper steps for the release of the contra commanders.

The contra spokesman said that the RN will continue to seek a dialogue with the Sandinists and that it would always maintain its military readiness.

Bermudez Comments

PA2805194888 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish
1200 GMT 28 May 88

[Interview with Nicaraguan Resistance Commander Enrique Bermudez Varela by unidentified reporter in Managua on 27 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] Commander, the Sandinist media have been systematically publishing reports on the alleged desertion of someone whom they describe as a commander. We would like to know if this is true and how this affects the RN.

[Bermudez] Yes, it is true. Commander Alfa Lima succumbed under the psychological warfare that the Sandinist government is now waging, taking advantage of the truce. I will reply as follows: In the past, we had the desertion of Commander Moises whose sad ending is known to everyone—he was killed near Somotillo 2 years after accepting the amnesty and spent his last months under the harassment and persecution of the Sandinist government. We hope this does not happen to Commander (Alex). He very bravely struggled for 4 years with us and succumbed to this campaign. We are exposed to this. He is one more casualty. This time he did not fall under Sandinist fire; he succumbed to Sandinist propaganda. However, the current rate of desertions we have—specifically during this truce—has been very low. The Sandinists have more desertions each month than we have. In this type of war this is acceptable—desertions, etc., and people who accept the amnesty—an acceptable

percentage. We accept that. This is not going to deeply affect our organization. I understand that the remaining troops that belonged to his force are probably very annoyed and his second in command has taken command, exercising and maintaining control, being alert not to succumb to these campaigns. I believe this stage is very difficult as our fighters are exposed to the propaganda campaign, as there is a truce and we are respecting it.

To sum up, the Sandinist regime has also had very important desertions, at a much higher level. For example, there is the case of a high-ranking EPS officer who was very close to the minister of defense and who deserted. You see, then, this does not only happen to the RN, but to the EPS as well; nevertheless, the fight continues.

[Reporter] Commander, the fact that the very day you are in Managua with the rest of the RN Directorate was chosen to announce the desertion—do you believe this is a propaganda ploy by the Sandinist regime, which goes against the goodwill they say they have?

[Bermudez] I am sure that if this commander succumbed to the psychological persuasion work of the Sandinists, it is because they had been working on this for many days, preparing it to coincide with the Managua meeting and my presence here to try and cause a psychological impact. However, as I explained, this is one more casualty, and the psychological impact they possibly had wanted has not had the desired effect. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Commander, probably all the Nicaraguan people are waiting for the outcome of the talks between the Sandinist regime and the RN. Likewise, the RN fighters, who at this very moment are listening to Radio Impacto's broadcasts, are perhaps also waiting for some orders, some guidance, or a message from their commander in chief. We would therefore like to offer Radio Impacto's microphones for a message to the people of Nicaragua.

[Bermudez] With a great deal of satisfaction, here in Managua I have received expressions from people who have the same expectations as the rural and peasant population—the people who we have the closest contact with. These expressions are that we are a hope for the Nicaraguan people to attain their peace and freedom. The people trust that we will remain firm and will not fall into a trap while negotiating. We have always had this intention, and now it is strengthened much more by the many telephone calls that I personally have received from people who I do not even know, who have told me that they trust us; they trust that we are going to carry on the negotiations well and will not be tricked, and we are going to hold on as we are their only hope.

I want to tell the troops that at this moment we are going through a phase where the political struggle has intensified much more than the military struggle. We have to also fight in the political terrain, and we must resist these campaigns of psychological persuasion to turn ourselves in. Until we

get the basic conditions for the democratization of Nicaragua, no fighter should turn in his weapon. This is the message. The case of the commander who deserted is one more casualty, who succumbed not to fire but to the Sandinist regime's psychological warfare.

19 July Festivities Planned for Juigalpa

PA3105234588 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
1810 GMT 31 May 88

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce, vice coordinator of the FSLN Executive Commission, has announced that the city of Juigalpa, Chontales, in Region No 5, will be the site of the celebration of the 9th anniversary of the Sandinist people's revolution on 19 July.

Commander Arce explained that Juigalpa has been chosen as the site in recognition of its constant contribution to the country's production, defense, and political life. The Sandinist leader added that in commemoration of the 9th anniversary of the Sandinist people's revolution, a series of public works projects will be raffled off [rifado], including a drinking water project in Boaco, reconstruction of the Juigalpa central park, and maintenance work on the Carlos Guerra Colindres Stadium.

The commemoration of the 9th anniversary of the Sandinist people's revolution will be held at the Carlos Guerra Colindres Stadium in Juigalpa.

Radio Catolica Protests Media Sanctions

PA2705143888 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish
1300 GMT 25 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Sandinist government, through the Press Directorate, is implementing drastic measures that harm the rights of journalists to report the truth. In May alone, 20 newscasts and 48 mini-newscasts were suspended. On 4 May, the Press Directorate suspended the "Iglesia" newscast for 8 days. On 20 May, four "Iglesia" newscasts were suspended.

If the FSLN is a popular government that has the people's support, what is it afraid of? Is it afraid of the truth? Is the FSLN afraid that people, or rather the Nicaraguan people, will get truthful information? Why is this happening if FSLN supporters are not supposed to rebel against any situation because they are Sandinists?

Radio Catolica journalists hereby protest the Press Directorate's arbitrariness and demand the right to report the truth. The Press Directorate forbids us from using the word obligatory in matters regarding the military service. It forbids us from mentioning economic aspects because [newsmen] should not speculate. The Press Directorate forbids National Resistance military members from making statements. What can journalists

do? Is this not censorship? This is worse than self-censorship because this harms journalists even more. How far does the Press Directorate plan to go?

La Voz de Nicaragua issued a report that there had been an earthquake in Cuba. This obviously alarmed families who have children studying in Cuba. The Colombian radio station Emisoras Caracol reported this, which La Voz de Nicaragua based their report on. Obviously, since there is a democratic government in Colombia, it did not punish the radio station. It simply corrected the report. Why was La Voz de Nicaragua not punished? Does this mean the state radio stations can make up news, lie, offend, etc., simply because they are state-owned media? It is a station allied with Ortega's government. The Colombian station reported that this was a simulated earthquake by dictator Fidel Castro. Communists are well known for creating psychological wars.

If those shady regulations are used against "Iglesia" and other newscasts, why are they not used against La Voz de Nicaragua? What kind of distinction does the official state radio station that advertises Ortega's government have? Who granted this immunity to it? However, the Press Directorate speaks about laws. It is now our audience's turn to speak.

Panama

Ex-L.A. Presidents Meet With Noriega, Solis

PA0106050988 Paris AFP in Spanish 0213 GMT
1 Jun 88

[Text] Panama City, 31 May (AFP)—Today the former presidents of Venezuela, Carlos Andres Perez, and Costa Rica, Daniel Oduber, met with General Manuel Antonio Noriega to find "a Latin American solution" to the Panamanian crisis.

Despite reports early this afternoon in the Panamanian capital, OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares did not attend the meeting.

Unofficial sources in Panama had indicated that after his 30 May meeting with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias to review the regional crisis, Baena Soares would fly to Panama to be present at the meeting between Noriega and the former presidents.

After his talk with Baena, President Arias revealed that he had asked former President Perez and Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo to intervene in the Panamanian situation to seek new negotiations with Gen Noriega.

Perez arrived at noon in the Panamanian capital, accompanied by former President Oduber, and afterwards they both met privately with Noriega and President Manuel Solis at the Air Force Base in Tocumen, about 20 km southeast of the capital.

Upon his arrival in Panama, Perez said the breakup of negotiations between the United States and Panama concerning Gen Noriega's withdrawal as chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces poses a danger of "an open confrontation" between both countries.

Perez insisted that U.S. economic sanctions against Panama to force Noriega to resign are "unwarranted," and he added that "we are on the side of Latin America... and that is why we are keen on finding a solution without too many problems."

Oduber, for his part, pointed out that all Gen Noriega did was listen to his proposal, which was basically to reactivate a former proposal submitted last February concerning a gradual withdrawal of the Panamanian military forces from power.

Former Presidents Perez and Oduber had publicly announced at that time that the proposal, also actively supported by former Colombian President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, had been initially approved by Noriega himself last February. This was before former President Eric Delvalle tried to remove Noriega from his post on 25 February.

Following the more than 2-hour long meeting with Noriega, former Presidents Oduber and Perez returned to San Jose and Caracas, respectively.

Solis on National Dialogue Report, Economy
PA3105132188 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, referred to the final report presented by the national dialogue representatives upon conclusion of the first phase.

[Begin recording] [Solis] I will analyze it and send it to all the ministers and directors of autonomous organizations so that they may also analyze it. We will meet next week to evaluate what has been done and what can possibly be done to benefit the country. I am sure most of their proposals will benefit the country, so we will try to implement them.

[Reporter] Doctor, does the government have a plan for solving the country's economic crisis, the lack of cash, and the other economic problems on the national level?

[Solis] Well, I believe that we are currently analyzing the most important things that must be done. We will naturally do them with whatever resources we have available, plus what we manage to get from other countries. We will also implement a development plan to reactivate our national economy and produce new revenues so that we may carry out our plans. We know that we will have to limit our activities to a minimum for 2 or 3 months, based on the resources we are able to collect to

support our economy. However, I want to quote Roosevelt, when he referred to the 1932 crisis. He said: The crisis is solved ... [corrects himself] deficits are solved with bigger deficits.

[Reporter] Can you confirm that no paper money will be printed?

[Solis] All I can tell you is that when we say no paper money will be printed we do not aim to please the United States or any other country. We do it given the way our economy works. If, at any given moment, our situation shows that this is the road to choose, we will do it. If we consider that our national situation does not allow it because it would damage our economy, then we will not do it. We believe that the conditions are not appropriate to print our paper money right now. [end recording]

Views Elections

PA3105163588 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1524 GMT 31 May 88

[Statement by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, at the Electoral Tribunal in Panama City—live]

[Text] Honorable Legislator Alberto Aleman Boyd, president of the Panamanian Legislative Assembly; gentlemen ministers of state; Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez, magistrate president of the Electoral Tribunal; gentlemen magistrates of the Electoral Tribunal; gentlemen members of the Electoral Legislative Commission; gentlemen representatives of the national executive committees of the political parties present here today; Carlos A. Bonilla, acting secretary general of the Electoral Tribunal; Fidel Vasquez, acting director of the Electoral Tribunal's advisory board; Honorable Rosa de Him, Electoral Tribunal systems secretary; gentlemen directors of the Civil Registry, Identity Card Department, and Electoral Registry; Electoral Tribunal attorney; special guests; ladies and gentlemen:

It is truly a great pleasure to be present at this very important event during which the amendments to the Electoral Law are being presented. This is the result of the efforts of many responsible Panamanian citizens who wish to bring peace to the country through the peaceful and civilized methods of an election. These amendments are essential for the clear, honest, clean, and expeditious elections to be held in May 1989. Likewise, we have received the electoral registry that includes the names of 1,108,997 voters. This represents an increase of more than 190,000 names over our previous list. This has been a praiseworthy effort on the part of the Electoral Tribunal and also proves that this institution is interested in sponsoring an event as important as a general election, and one that could be the basis for the country's political tranquillity.

Likewise, my presence here, and the presence of the president of the Legislative Assembly, is proof that the government and the Legislative Assembly are interested in ensuring that the 1989 elections will be a model in the Panamanian democratic process. However, the government and state institutions are not the only ones necessary for the planning and execution of an election. This also calls for the interest, will, and awareness of the political parties and the country in general.

We are working quickly, and I think the time is right to begin the activities leading to the 1989 elections. We hope that most of the Panamanians involved in the political process will set aside their personal views and contribute, in a serious and responsible manner, to give the 1989 political process the spark it deserves.

Today I must state that the 1989 elections will be held on 7 May 1989 despite the ideas of some private groups. The safety and trust in these elections will depend on the Panamanian people, and we guarantee to the people that these elections will be free, honest, expeditious, and everyone will have the opportunity to express his feelings and beliefs so that the country will continue to expand the democratic process that began many years ago, a democratic process that strengthens each day.

Even though this is an independent tribunal, as a member of the executive branch I wish to thank the representatives of the political groups—very important political groups and sectors—for being here today because this is proof that everyone is interested in these elections. We must remember that the month of May is coming to an end and we are only 11 months from the elections. We already have the names of almost all the people who will cast their votes in May 1989. This represents progress compared with previous years and is proof of the Electoral Tribunal's efficiency, capacity, and determination to keep its promise to the Panamanian people.

Yolanda, the Panamanians are truly proud, at least the Panamanians who are aware of the job you have done. My sincere congratulations for a job well done. Nothing and no one must hinder this patriotic task you are doing for the good of the Republic of Panama and its future for which we are all responsible.

Thank you. [applause]

Politicians on Solis Term-Extension Plebiscite
PA3005233488 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish
30 May 88 pp 1, 19

[Article by Carlos J. Nunez L.]

[Text] Political leaders Juan Medrano and Alfredo Aleman Jr have expressed positive views on holding a plebiscite for the Panamanian people to define a transitional political process between 1989 and 1994.

The idea launched by General Manuel Antonio Noriega at a meeting of solidarity of Latin American women with Panama, held Friday last week, was spread around the world by foreign news agencies and this weekend was the subject under discussion in homes and political circles.

Noriega said that "we have a luxury president." Referring to Manuel Solis Palma, he expressed the idea of holding a plebiscite to keep him in the Presidency for the 1989-1994 period.

According to veteran Liberal politician Alfredo Aleman Jr, "there would be nothing healthier than holding a plebiscite at this time for the majority of the people to reaffirm the present political condition, or to disapprove it democratically, but without impositions from abroad."

Aleman added that "the Panamanian people cannot continue to live on the emotion of the moment, because this would atrophy our reasoning. Nothing would be more beneficial than to reaffirm democracy through the desire of the majority."

Aleman emphasized that "what we need in the future, after reaffirming our territorial and political sovereignty, is to unite our efforts to achieve our economic sovereignty for the benefit of our nation and the rest of the world's countries who want the peace that the world's two great powers seek today."

Labor Party [PALA] President Juan Medrano said that "we believe elections should be held, because this is an important stage on the path to improving the democratic process in Panama. If, as a result of the difficulties we are experiencing, thought is being given to the need to find alternatives, then only a plebiscite would permit us to learn the peoples' verdict on the possibility of postponing the next elections, with a resulting extension of President Solis Palma's term in office."

Such an important decision for the country should be taken only after popular consultation, such as a plebiscite, because the decision of the people is final and unappealable and would have to be accepted by everyone.

Until that is done, we in PALA will continue preparations to assume our commitments in the next election. [no closing quotation marks as published]

On 'Failure' of Talks
PA2805145288 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE
PANAMA in Spanish 27 May 88 p 1

[Article by Emilio Sinclair]

[Text] The failure of negotiations between Ronald Reagan's administration and the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] commander prompted different reactions in the country's social and political circles.

While the Reagan administration said the meeting of its special envoy Michael Kozak with the FDP commander's representatives were negotiations, the general's spokesmen called them conversations.

Yesterday, opposition Christian Democratic Party President Ricardo Arias Calderon said that from this failure "the U.S. Government should learn the lesson that Panamanians already know and had warned the United States about in a timely fashion: to deal with Noriega, only focusing on his fate based on the image that the United States must keep vis-a-vis the Soviet Union and based on an electoral policy, not only hurts Panama but hurts the United States even more."

Discussing the failure of the negotiations, Arias Calderon said the Christian Democratic Party proposes "that all the efforts of the overwhelming majority of Panamanians who identify with the objectives of the Civic Crusade and the political parties that have supported the Crusade be geared toward attaining three clear-cut goals: a. Noriega's immediate departure; b. An agreement between civilian and military sectors on a professional and constitutional public force that will overcome its present breakdown and be under the civilian authority of a democratic nation; c. Replacing the present executive branch with a national reconciliation and reconstruction government that is able to take the country to legitimate elections in 1989. No patriotic solution should be attempted that does not include the attainment of these three goals."

The Liberal Alfredo Aleman Jr said "the failure of the negotiations has been obvious for a long time. A free, independent, and sovereign country cannot have the conditions stipulated in the negotiations imposed on it as no free and independent country could accept these conditions without feeling insulted."

When Alfredo Aleman Jr was asked to which of the conflicting groups within the Liberal Party he belonged, he answered: "Ask Popito [Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari] or Roderick [Esquivel] if they belong to my group."

'Solidarity Resolution' of Women's Single Front
PA2805162488 Panama City Domestic Service
in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 May 88

['Solidarity resolution' issued by the Women's Single Front Against Aggression at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City on 27 May]

[Text] The international delegations that attended the women's event in solidarity with Panama state that whereas:

1. The Panamanian people and government are being subjected to criminal aggression by U.S. imperialism;

2. The Panamanian Government and peoples, following the guidelines and thoughts of their mentor and guide, Omar Torrijos Herrera, have always upheld international solidarity, self-determination, national independence, and sovereignty;

3. The economic aggression has reached the point of trying to annihilate the people through economic strangulation, seeking to bend the will of the Panamanian people;

4. U.S. imperialism has arrogantly and threateningly reinforced its military force on the banks of the canal, flagrantly violating the Torrijos-Carter Treaties; and

5. U.S. soldiers constantly move through Panama City, trying to provoke incidents of incalculable proportions.

Resolves:

1. To express repudiation of U.S. aggression and interference in Panama's domestic affairs.

2. To reject the exaggerated and threatening U.S. military presence in Panama.

3. To express our militant support with the Panamanian Government and peoples, especially its nationalist leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega, [applause] who heads and directs the struggle for Panamanian sovereignty.

4. To stage events in support of Panama in our countries, stressing the example given by the Panamanian people in their nationalist struggle.

5. To draft a letter from Latin American women that will be submitted to international organizations, the United Nations, the OAS, and SELA, in which the violation of the essential principles of international law, provided for by the UN and OAS Charters, will be reported. The United States has violated them in its diabolic attempt to bend the will of the Panamanian people. [applause]

6. To file a suit with the International Court of Justice for the economic damage suffered by Panama as a result of the blockade, [applause] as a result of the economic blockade imposed by the United States. The damage to the Panamanian economy exceeds 5 billion dollars. Like Panama, the United States is a signatory of the document on the rights and duties of states, and this document establishes the just and adequate indemnification on the part of the country that has caused economic damage to a member state. In this regard, the Latin American Association of Lawyers, through the initiative of the Venezuelan Federation of Lawyers, will undertake the pertinent legal proceedings.

7. To address SELA to expedite the fulfillment of the economic cooperation treaties agreed to in February of last year in the city of Caracas. We must redouble efforts to obtain food and medicine to alleviate the effects of this crisis, invented by the colossus of the north against the Panamanian family.

8. To address the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, noting the violations by the United States of our essential rights. We will denounce the U.S. Government before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, because it is violating our right to health, to sustenance, and to live peacefully and harmoniously. In short, it is violating our right to life.

9. To propose the creation of a Latin American commission that is politically, ideologically, and professionally pluralistic, so it will render its good offices and cooperate in the implementation and development of a sincere, respectful, and sovereign dialogue between the United States and the Republic of Panama. This commission must work toward Panama's sovereignty, for the lifting of the cruel economic measures, and for the establishment of good relations between the United States and Panama.

Companeros, Latin Americans all, we cannot rest, we must not let down our guard. The hour of the peoples has begun, and we must not give up until Panama has a single flag, a single territory, [applause] and a single destiny. Thank you.

Youths' Deaths Due to U.S. 'Negligence'

PA3105161288 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in
Spanish 30 May 88 pp 1, 6

[Text] Panamanian youths are being victimized by the criminal negligence of U.S. soldiers stationed in the canal area. This is because of the large amount of explosive material they abandon in areas of free transit.

The tragedy which occurred on Saturday in Cerro Silvestre, Arraijan, in which two youths were killed and another injured is added to similar incidents in 1960 at Santa Clara and 1984 in Cocoli, all of which were caused by the irresponsibility of U.S. soldiers.

The maneuvers that the Americans are carrying out in the Arraijan area, specifically at the Nuevo Emperador Firing Range, without the proper precautions and with the marked intention of provoking Panamanians and demonstrating U.S. power with an eye to a future invasion, have been denounced and rejected by the residents of Arraijan, who foresee tragedies.

The death of the youths Domingo Julio Avila and Anibal Villarreal Estrada on Saturday, as well as that of the minors Aldo Enrico Granucci and Omar E. Assin in March 1984 and of the Carbonell youths in Santa Clara in 1960, cannot be forgotten by Panamanians, because

they were all the result of the explosion of grenades and other devices used by the U.S. soldiers and left scattered about the area without precautions of any kind.

The Foreign Ministry of the Republic is expected to make a statement to the U.S. Government on the subject in the next few days, because these attacks on Isthmians cannot be allowed to continue. Once and for all, there must be an end to these intimidating maneuvers, the prelude to an invasion that has already been openly requested by Alfonse D'Amato, the senator from New York.

Abrams Efforts To Obtain 'Complicity' Fail

PA3105011288 Panama City Domestic Service in
Spanish 1645 GMT 30 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Latin American cooperation for promoting dialogue and understanding among the Panamanian political forces and for rejecting the U.S. aggression and intervention is desirable, Romulo Escobar Bethancourt proposed before COPPPAL [Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties] last February when that Latin American and Caribbean political group met to discuss the Panamanian situation.

At that time, the proposal by the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] president was approved by consensus, and the COPPPAL parties offered to sponsor that national dialogue. However, at that time, like today, the understanding was halted by the reluctance of the most pro-U.S. and rightist sector of the opposition that refused to join this national effort. They preferred, and they still want, foreign intervention to turn power—which the people have not granted them—over to them.

Some time later, that same pro-gringo opposition also foiled the proposal by a group of former Latin American presidents and of the presidents of the Costa Rican and Spanish Governments—for mediation by Archbishop McGrath—by refusing to accept it, in spite of the mutual positive feelings they share with the prelate.

Now, the so-called Elliott Abrams—the strategist of lies and failures—talks about promoting a Latin American effort, guided by the United States. In that regard he traveled with General Walters to several countries in the region in an effort to obtain their complicity, and he once again failed in the effort. More recently, he is trying to organize a group of Central American countries that are pro-United States in order to repeat his plan. With this, he only wants to cover up for the previous U.S. failures and insist on his old objectives of submitting Panama to U.S. hegemony.

Abrams' blunder has nothing to do with Romulo's proposal before COPPPAL. That was a Panamanian initiative, with Latin American solidarity, that defends the sovereignty and self-determination of Panamanians. It was, and still is, an anti-interventionist initiative. To the contrary, Abrams'

initiative calls for intervening with the complicity of Latin Americans. The governments of the Group of Eight understood it well, and so did the representatives who were attending the SELA and ECLA meetings who offered to help Panama in the terms in which the constitutional government of Solis Palma requested it.

We continue to desire this Latin American support for the purpose of building a just and sovereign political solution, among Panamanians, without any neocolonialist interventions or pressures. But any Latin American support must be organized based on a Panamanian proposal, respectful of the legitimate rights, claims, and interests of our nation, with the clear participation of our people and without any foreign hegemony. Only that which improves our independence is valid, according to the will of the national majority, which will never turn the country over to the minority and pro-gringo internal groups that have already been defeated by our people.

Action Against Country's 'Enemies' Urged
PA3005230188 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish
30 May 88 p 15

["Hardline" column by Alberto Barrera: "More Action and Less Half-Measures (panos tibios) Against Panama's Enemies"—passage in uppercase as published]

[Text] Often amid the heat and enthusiasm of debates in government institutions, measures are adopted that die at their beginning a few days later.

We bring this up today because in Panama we are watching with great stupor the ineffectiveness of resolutions and orders that are issued but not implemented.

In that regard, we must mention:

1. Attorney General Carlos A. Villalaz ordered the arrest of Gabriel Lewis Galindo, Eric Arturo Delvalle, Juan B. Sosa, and other turncoats, and requested Interpol's help in apprehending them. However, these individuals, who have been labeled fugitives of justice, appear on U.S. television screens as they are being interviewed and making statements for U.S. correspondents. Where is Interpol's dynamic action?

U.S. Ambassador to Panama Arthur Davis and John Maisto have both been declared "PNG's" [persona non grata] through resolutions approved by the Legislative Assembly and other government institutions when their insolent participation in seditious actions of the so-called servilist alliance [reference to the Civic Crusade] was confirmed. Although there is enough evidence against them, our state institutions have not expelled them from the country. However, in Paraguay, Davis was expelled without any hesitation. Why does Panama not do the same? What are we waiting for?

A suit against the United States for its economic aggression against our country—which has caused damages amounting to more than \$5 billion—has not been drafted. We hope that our new foreign minister, Jorge Ritter, will act as soon as possible in filing a demand against the oppressive and interventionist United States.

In the international field, organizations such as SELA, which represents Latin American countries, criticized U.S. actions and requested the lifting of economic sanctions, without obtaining a just U.S. reply.

SELA's action has remained in the form of a resolution, and we do not foresee more effective action.

Based on these considerations, we can conclude that Panama is not acting with determination and that more action and patriotism is necessary to "finally achieve victory," as our national anthem says. Our country is currently facing crucial moments that demand the participation of all peace-loving Panamanians.

Are we facing TECHNOCRACY, BUREAUCRACY, OR LAZINESS?

RN Denies Involvement With Guerrilla Groups
PA3105164888 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 31 May 88 pp A-1, A-2

[Article by Chief Editor Juan Carlos Duque M.]

[Text] Yesterday the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] denied being in any way involved in alleged guerrilla groups in Panama, noting that the "Nicaraguans capable of taking up weapons against the Nicaraguan Government are inside Nicaragua."

Alvaro Altamirano, RN political representative in Panama, told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA: "We not only deny but repudiate any kind of involvement in events, because we believe in the self-determination of peoples, even though over a dozen countries became involved in Nicaragua in 1978."

Altamirano said that, as Latin Americans, he and his group respect "our brothers and believe in regional bodies."

The RN leader added that he admires leaders such as Alfonsín, Lusínchi, Febres-Cordero, and others who contribute to peace and democracy in the hemisphere.

He said that a former Panamanian official—Jose I. Blandon—made statements in the United States alleging that the RN was involved in the "Pia Vesta" [Danish ship carrying weapons seized by the Panama Defense Forces] matter and the training of some anti-Sandinists. He added that several days ago, General Noriega said he had rebuked Poindexter because of his position on Nicaragua.

The RN leader believes that the Sandinist government has infiltrated certain elements to create a destabilizing movement in Panama. "This suits them, because they want to take advantage of these troubled times," he said.

Altamirano said that Nicaragua's participation in terrorist actions in several countries is very well known. He stressed that Cuba and Nicaragua are trying "to take advantage of Panama's crisis."

On other subjects, Altamirano stressed that the differences within the RN have been overcome, stressing that this was a good show of pluralism in an organization where there are several concurrent viewpoints.

Altamirano said that the talks in Managua continue even though Daniel Ortega felt in the past that he did not have to talk with "circus clowns but with the circus owners."

"Time has proved that we were right, and Ortega has had to open talks with the RN. Nobody opens talks or negotiations if reason, the law, and credibility are on his side," Altamirano said.

Agriculture Minister on Impact of Sanctions

*PA0106002688 Panama City Domestic Service
in Spanish 1645 GMT 31 May 88*

[Text] Agricultural Development Minister Darisnel Espino has announced that the agricultural sector has lost over 100 million balboas as a result of the economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. Government on Panama in March. He said that with the support of MIDA [Agricultural Development Ministry], Panamanian farmers have retaliated against the aggression with production. Even though prices have dropped, farmers have tried not to affect the supply of the Panamanian people's food staples.

Minister Espino pointed out that 1987 was an excellent year for agriculture, which grew by 8.2 percent, mainly in the area of nontraditional exports. He said the country has sufficient supplies to last to September, and that by means of a program called "Let's Return to the Fields" the national government, through MIDA, has been promoting a contingency plan, with the support of SELA, in order to provide producers with the materials and fertilizers necessary to maintain and increase production.

He added that there are 136,000 hectares of crops ready to supply our population of 2.5 million, and that so far it has been unnecessary to import any products. He also said the export of 10,000 head of cattle has been authorized. The MIDA plan also calls for developing community vegetable gardens and low-cost food fairs throughout the country, Espino said. He added that the various commissions working on the list of exports [not further identified] have been adopting measures in order to continue offering the necessary products to the people and searching for a true integration of the agricultural sector, which is becoming stronger everyday and is courageously confronting the foreign aggression.

Exporters Protest Increase in Tariffs

*PA3105194988 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE
PANAMA in Spanish 31 May 88 pp A-1, A-2*

[Letter from Roberto Lombana, acting president of the Panamanian Exporters Association (APEX), to Mario Rognoni, minister of industries and commerce—dated 27 May]

[Text] Dear Mr Minister:

APEX has taken due note of Decree No 18 of 22 May 1988, issued by the Cabinet Council to reestablish tariffs on several national products. The measure, which is probably intended to punish the nation's industrial sector on the grounds that there is a scarcity—after these tariffs had been reduced to a minimum—will result in an increase in unemployment in our country and even a significant reduction in treasury revenue as the affected firms lose their ability to generate profits.

Decree No 18—which corrects the error to which we refer—is a step in the right direction. However, APEX is faced with a series of obstacles that have been raised by the authorities without any grounds, preventing its members from fully carrying out their activities to stimulate and promote exports, which, as you have publicly stated, are indispensable to enable Panama to overcome the worst crisis in its history.

In this respect, we wish to call your attention to the illegal and arbitrary occupation of our main office, which is located on Ricardo Alfaro Avenue in this city. In fact, our office was occupied on Monday night, 25 April, without any legal order to that effect, and since then members of the Panama Defense Forces have barred us from entering, keeping us from rendering the services required by our members to make their exports, which are so urgently necessary to our country at this particular time.

We would greatly appreciate your assistance, if you deem it appropriate, to enable us to obtain an immediate end to the military occupation of our headquarters and an immediate return of our offices so that we may resume our numerous export activities. Without any doubt, Your Excellency is well aware of the importance of these activities to our nation's economy and well-being.

Very truly yours,

Roberto Lombana, acting President

Panama City, 27 May 1988

Construction Sector Pact To Resume Activities

*PA0106025288 Panama City Telemetro Television
in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 May 88*

[Text] The Panamanian Construction Chamber [CAPAC] and the Single National Union of Construction and Related Workers [SUNTRACS] signed an

agreement this afternoon that includes the resumption of construction work and the reinstatement of workers to their jobs. The document, which was signed by CAPAC's Alberto Aleman III and SUNTRACS' Eduardo Rios, also includes the cancellation of debts with SUNTRACS members, including wages and benefits. Alberto Aleman III gave details on the agreement:

[Begin Aleman recording] We must point out that we are making joint efforts before the National Banking Commission, the Banking Association, and the banking community in general to find ways to resume our activities or at least be able to operate under the strict banking restrictions, which are causing us many problems and difficulties.

Concerning the government area, we are presenting a proposal to seek a triangulation [triangulacion] of the debt the government has with the private sector in order to resume some of the government projects, which are paralyzed, and to provide construction companies with an opportunity to fulfill their obligations through payments to the National Institute of Telecommunications, the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electricity, and other government institutions.

Over 90 percent of the construction sector is paralyzed, and we hope this agreement will help us reactivate our sector and return it at least to the level it reached in January. In other words, those projects that were under way in January must be resumed. [end recording]

Oil Exploration Creates 'Great Expectations'
*PA0106002988 Panama City Domestic Service
in Spanish 1645 GMT 31 May 88*

[Text] The oil exploration that is being conducted in Panama has created great expectations following the announcement of the results of the seismic study recently completed in the Gulf of Panama and the Gulf of San Miguel by the Hydra Oil and Gas Co. and the Isthmian Oil and Gas Co. [preceding names in English].

The preliminary interpretation of these results shows there are geological structures with possibilities for the formation of hydrocarbons in the Gulf of San Miguel. However, a detailed oil drilling plan will be supplied to the Hydrocarbons Department of the Commerce and Industries Ministry once all the information is analyzed. It was reported that according to the contracts with the aforementioned companies, oil drilling will begin in August.

Mexican Medical Supplies Donation Received
*PA3105234788 Panama City Televisora Nacional
in Spanish 1800 GMT 31 May 88*

[Text] The first donation of medicine from Mexico to the Panamanian people was delivered this morning by Mexican Ambassador Carlos Planck to Panamanian Health Minister Dr Francisco Sanchez Cardenas. The ceremony took place at the Health Ministry's Metropolitan Area Health Center warehouse. A total of 188 cases of medicine were delivered to meet our country's urgent public health needs. With this donation, Mexico is helping to solve one of the most pressing problems facing the Panamanian people as a result of the unjust U. S. economic sanctions.

Briefs

Consul Removed, Others Appointed

The Press Secretariat of the Presidency reported that President Solis Palma issued an executive decree canceling the appointment of Maida Arosemena Samudio as assistant representative to the United Nations with consular duties in New Orleans. In addition, the president appointed Jaime Medrano as the general consul in Genoa, Italy; and Mario Eduardo Clerici Gorgas as the vice consul in Buenos Aires, Argentina. [Summary] [PA3105031788 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 May 88]

Argentina

President Alfonsín Departs for U.S. 29 May
PY3005021288 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
0140 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 May (TELAM)—Just before departing for the United States tonight, President Raul Alfonsín stated that when he meets with international monetary authorities he will reiterate Argentina's demand that interest rates on the foreign debt be reduced.

In remarks at Ezeiza Airport, the chief of state flatly denied that his image would be impaired if he did not obtain a positive answer in this respect. He said that in the first place, one must not be pessimistic beforehand, and he emphasized that the fact the debtor countries cannot comply with their commitments is slowly being understood throughout the world.

He also stressed that the national government will comply with its 1988 budget commitments, which include a large reduction in public expenditures.

To Make Debt Proposal
PY3105150788 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1112 GMT 31 May 88

[Text] New York, 31 May (NA)—In a speech to the Council of the Americas here, today President Raul Alfonsín will formulate an "all-encompassing, specific proposal for resolving the foreign debt problem in the long term." He will put forward this proposal before the debtor and creditor nations, the private banks, and the international financial agencies.

Central Bank President Jose Luis Machinea and Finance Secretary Mario Brodersohn, who revealed that Alfonsín would formulate that "unprecedented" proposal, have ruled out the possibility that Argentina may agree to the expanded facility plan that IMF head Michael Camdessus proposed in Buenos Aires in April.

Machinea added that within 10 to 15 days, official negotiations will begin in Washington between the IMF and Argentina seeking to grant a new stand-by credit of approximately \$1 billion for the 1988-89 period.

In a statement to the journalists who are accompanying Alfonsín, who arrived here yesterday after a 14-hour flight, Machinea declined to give details of the foreign debt proposal, although he explained that it will specify the roles "of the four main factors" of the issue.

Machinea said that the initiative has been analyzed with the Cordoba Governor and Radical presidential hopeful Eduardo Angeloz.

The highlights of the proposal are:

—A reduction of the net flow of funds that currently are transferred abroad to pay the interest on the debt, in order to reinvest them in the country.

—The resolution of this problem in the long-term.

—The specification of the role played by creditor and debtor nations, the private banks, and the international financial agencies.

—The enforcement of the theory of shared responsibility.

Asked about the expanded facility plan put forward by Camdessus, Machinea said that "it does not have major advantages" with respect to the stand-by credits "because it does not provide for large amounts of fresh money, it is not flexible, and it provides for quarterly supervision."

Brodersohn justified the Argentine Government's rejection of this proposal by saying that "the plan would create tension because it includes 1 year of the administration that will take over in 1989."

Brodersohn said that the proposal to be put forward by Alfonsín, "who did not come to negotiate anything in particular," is "a permanent, stable, rational, and long-term solution."

In this regard he added that "the two radical proposals, the unilateral moratorium declared by Brazil and Peru and the orthodox recipes that have been enforced since 1982, have already failed."

When he was told that the U.S. Government is very unlikely to agree to participate in a possible resolution of the debt problem before the presidential elections next year [as received], he replied that "the objective is to lay the groundwork for a permanent solution, not for a solution that will last for only 3 months."

"We will not tell the banks to either take it or leave it," Brodersohn said.

Asked whether Alfonsín consulted with some of his Latin American counterparts over the initiative, he replied that "the proposal summarizes the position of several Latin American debtors."

Asked whether the proposal is based on the Cartagena Consensus, Machinea said that "it includes some principles of the Consensus, but it is an explicit, detailed idea."

When asked whether he expects the proposal to settle the Argentine market, Machinea stressed that "the uncertainty will decrease if it is accepted," but "this is a solution which is not for the short-term."

In response to reporters' questions, he admitted that the proposal includes safeguard mechanisms for emergencies, like natural disasters.

Senator on John Lehman's Falklands Remarks
PY3105032288 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
0053 GMT 31 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 May (TELAM)—Antonio Berhongaray, president of the Senate Defense Committee, today said that a statement by John Lehman, who was U.S. Navy secretary during the Malvinas war, that without U.S. aid Great Britain would not have recovered the archipelago, only confirms what we said when we approved the Defense Law: Our ideas regarding defense must be implemented within the sphere of Latin America.

In remarks released by his press office, the Radical congressman stated that a policy of letting the United States look after our external security and allowing our Armed Forces to look after our internal security emerged in the 1960's. The fallacy of this policy became evident with the Malvinas war, when our protector allied itself with our enemy.

Emphasizing this topic, he stressed that the idea of a secure border is being replaced by a broader idea: that of a secure region, based on the defensive capability of the countries of that region, in other words, the Latin American countries.

As to whether or not John Lehman's remarks could harm U.S.-Argentine relations, Berhongaray said in this respect one must be very realistic: When the United States has to choose between England and Argentina, the United States will always choose England as a privileged partner. What has happened in the past must always be of comfort to us when we say: The theory of convergence [confluencia] must displace the theory of conflict. We must seek serious, pragmatic, and rational relations, not emotional relations.

Jaunarena Comments

PY3105132388 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish
0200 GMT 31 May 88

[Excerpts] Today Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena, during the inauguration of the national Directorate of Civil Defense building, stressed the sense of solidarity of the Argentine people. We briefly talked with him: [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Reporter Pedro Leon] What do you think about the declaration that the United Kingdom could not have won the war without U.S. help?

[Jaunarena] It is premature to analyze those remarks at this time. The consequences are known by all of us, in the sense that we are aware of what could or could not have happened in the Malvinas. I do not think we should overreact. Let us wait a few days to properly assess its meaning.

[Leon] This comes about just when President Alfonsin is visiting the United States.

[Jaunarena] Of course. This type of coincidence is always noteworthy. There are many people responsible for disseminating documents or expressions regarding different political situations. They answer to different political interests. The important thing is that we distinguish the true national interest so as to not be victims of improvisation. Our conscience will tell us what to believe. [end recording] [passage omitted]

General Caridi Commemorates Army Day
PY3005010888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1235 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] San Salvador de Jujuy, 29 May (TELAM)—Army Chief of Staff General Jose Dante Caridi has stressed that the institution is completely convinced that the time has come to do away with the sectorial attitudes that divide us, and he asked that all Argentines, both civilians and military men, continue along the path of reconciliation and national unity.

This ideal, which implies a collective awareness of a common destiny, he added, means that we acknowledge and exalt our history, that we adhere to our traditional values, and that we have the desire to face the future together and with solidarity.

In his address, which he gave in this city today to commemorate Army Day, Caridi said that during the recent past the Army had the task of putting the nation on the appropriate path so it could be guided toward complete democracy and a constitutional system. He stated that if the Army's actions do not achieve national reconciliation, then the sacrifice has been in vain.

This is our institution's foremost desire, Caridi stressed, because if it is nurtured by its people and its basic objective is to the people, then the idea of a split between the institution and the people cannot be accepted.

Consequently, he stated that there is nothing casual about the Army being the target of attacks and impairment, because individuals of varying ideologies are seeking the break up constitutional order and the fall of the Republic's institutions, but they will not achieve these purposes while an Army like ours exists, an army that will strictly carry out its duty to preserve the great values that are the bases of our nationality.

Caridi then acknowledged that not so long ago, the Army was shaken by events that affected its permanent values, such as discipline, loyalty, and cohesion. And, it must be pointed out that this motivated the immediate and disciplined reaction of the Army in defense of constitutional order. With this attitude the Army once again definitely demonstrated that it occupies its proper place in the Republic's social and political structure.

These circumstances, he explained, grant the Army a degree of maturity that will allow it to make its indispensable contribution to achieving a peace of spirit

[words indistinct] adequate to face the lack of understanding of some people, and even the insults that come from obstinate sectors that are still bound by counter-productive lines of thought.

Caridi also recalled the heroism and valor of those who in a heroic and unfair struggle on our Malvinas Islands tried to regain control over that part of our national territory.

He then expressed his belief that in accordance with the needs of national defense, the country needs a modern, technically advanced, and highly trained army that is integrated within the Armed Forces; a professional army that will totally dedicate itself to its specific task; an army of the future, open to progress, but preserving its old spirit, always faithful to the preservation of its traditions; and an army that count on the support and solidarity of the society to which it belongs and which it serves by defending it.

Caridi explained that the city of San Salvador de Jujuy was chosen as the site at which to commemorate Army Day in order to render honor to the northern provinces and their noble people, because they have always been intimately united with their army. He also recalled the exodus of Jujuy, a heroic deed that is unique in the national history and an incomparable sacrifice that was made for independence.

Economy Minister Rules Out New Price Freeze
PY2805160288 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1220 GMT 28 May 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 28 May (NA)—Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille has assured the leaders of leading Argentine companies that the government will not raise taxes or order utility rate increases above the monthly inflation rate. Sourrouille said high rates are continuing because of "the indexation dynamics and the efforts to keep up" with prices.

The economy minister's remarks came shortly before the new rates for passenger transportation—trains and buses—were announced. These rates increased by 22 and 18.2 percent, respectively, when official estimates put May inflation between 15 and 17 percent.

Sourrouille emphatically rejected the idea of "a new freezing of prices and salaries" and stressed that the GDP will grow between 1 and 2 percent this year.

The minister also reiterated that the exchange rate market would not be unified, that the projection for the 1988 fiscal deficit remains at 3.9 percent, and that companies that depend on the Directorate of Public Enterprises would not receive funds from the treasury.

Sourrouille invited business leaders "to analyze together from now on" ways of deactivating the price indexation mechanism.

The minister emphasized that "the government is trying to drop the indexation system because the bases for controlling inflation are set, and there is no logic in the country continuing to tolerate double-digit inflation." [passage omitted]

Public Works Minister Says Expenditures Cut
PY3005034288 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
2315 GMT 29 May 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 29 May (TELAM)—Rodolfo Terragno, public works and services minister, has stated that last year's financial needs, which represented an expenditure of \$2.7 billion to the national treasury, have been reduced to \$2.2 billion. As a consequence, financing of public enterprises has been reduced by approximately \$500 million. He also disclosed that in addition to this, we have implemented forced savings by state enterprises, which will have to save 4 percent of their approved budget.

He explained that this is not only a goal and an objective to be fulfilled, it is also a duty and a way to reduce the deficit, which, should it continue to rise, would have quite undesirable effects, such as paralyzing or altering public works or increasing tariffs above the inflation rate.

Terragno made this statement this afternoon at Ezeiza International Airport shortly before leaving for the FRG, where he will maintain contact with authorities of the FRG public works area within the framework of the intensification of bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

State Defense Industries To Go Private
PY2705175088 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES
HERALD in English 27 May 88 pp 1, 11

[By Joe Schneider]

The AFNE [State Shipyards and Naval Factories] and Domecq Garcia state naval shipyards and the TAMSE [expansion unknown] tank factory have jumped on the privatization bandwagon.

Defence Ministry sources told the HERALD that the state-held armoured vehicles and naval equipment industrial plants were told to shape up and ship out.

The defence budget squeeze has put a subsidies tourniquet on the state-run military enterprises, forcing them to look in for efficiency and out for partners.

The twin strategy: Efficiency at home and expansion abroad. The tactic: Joint ventures. The going price: Working capital, technology transfer and world market penetration.

If local or international firms can meet those three prerequisites, TAMSE, AFNE and Domecq Garcia (which is already 25 percent owned by West Germany's Thyssen) are interested in teaming up.

The aerospace industry has led the Argentine military-industrial complex in flying the privatization route.

In April, Fabricaciones Argentinas de Material Aeroespacial (FAMA) was officially set up.

FAMA (46 percent Fabrica Militar de Aviones, 44 percent Aeritalia and 10 percent Techint) is already joining efforts with Dornier to mass-produce the IA-63 Pampa trainer—which it hopes to introduce into the US market—and with Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Co.] of Brazil to build the CBAS-123 19-seater transport plane.

The Pampa's export hopes are pinned, to a great extent, on next Monday's visit by Brigadier-General Daniel J. Sherlock, commander of the US 832nd Tactical Air Command, who is arriving with two pilots to test the IA-63 trainer.

Within two months after Sherlock, who last year was commander of the 405th Tactical Air Command in Arizona, gets a close look at the Pampa, the Argentine turboprop will be sent to the US and later go on a Latin American tour.

Taking their cues from FAMA's success, TAMSE, AFNE and Domecq Garcia are only the latest developments of a privatization policy launched three years ago in the Defence Production Secretariat.

The Defence Ministry is programming the sale of all or part of its shares in the following industrial companies:

—Atanor (raw materials for plastics, agrochemical products and home insecticides) is the first slated for public bidding.

—Petroquímica Rio Tercero and Forja Argentina (iron and aluminium works) are scheduled for public bidding during this quarter.

—Bahia Blanca Petrochemical Industrial Complex: Petropol (high density polyethylenes), Monomeros Vinilicos (monomeric vinyl chloride) and Inductor are currently negotiating a call for public bids.

—Polisur (high- and low-density polyethylenes)—also in the Bahia Blanca Petrochemical Industrial Complex—is not under consideration at the moment.

—Carboquímica Argentina (processed light and heavy coal tar byproducts) is still ironing out objections from its current private industry partners.

Commanders Benefit From Due Obedience Law
PY2805163388 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
1202 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 May (DYN)—Based on the controversial due obedience law, the Supreme Court today cleared three retired colonels and three generals of any criminal

responsibility in connection with the trials to which they have been subject in the Parana and Rosario federal courts for several human rights violation cases.

The court decision refers to former II Army Corps commanders Generals Luciano Adolfo Jauregui and Juan Carlos Trimarco, to General Andres Ferrero, and to Colonels Julian Gazari Barroso, Juan Rolon, and Pedro Canevaro.

Gen Ferrero has also been indicted in a case involving the I Army Corps, in connection with which petitions have been filed with the Supreme Court to enforce the due obedience law.

The Supreme Court also cleared Army officers Gustavo Martinez Zuviria, Juan Valentino, and Miguel Capobianco of all criminal responsibility.

Justices Jose Severo Caballero, Augusto Belluscio, and Carlos Fayt decided the due obedience law applies in the cases. Justice Enrique Petracchi shared this decision, but with slight differences. Justice Jorge Bacque opposed the decision on the grounds that the law is unconstitutional.

SIDE's Suarez Comments on Intelligence Issues
PY2905230988 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1331 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] Mar del Plata, 29 May (TELAM)—SIDE chief Facundo Suarez has stated that a very small group of former members of the Montoneros organization has formed a structure within the Justicialist Party that upholds the original Montoneros' ideals, although he stressed that they are within the law and are protected by the Constitution.

Suarez emphasized that there is a conspiracy against the national way of life by a group that has very little representation as an expression of the extreme right. He added: For the time being there are no activities that concern us.

Answering a question, Suarez stated that there are many individuals of the extreme right who use the name of Aldo Rico or support him by choosing a flag or a banner that Rico himself does not accept.

Suarez, who arrived in this city to rest over the weekend, made these remarks to the local morning newspaper EL ATLANTICO.

Referring to other topics, Suarez stressed that the Peruvian Maoist Shining Path group had tried to expand its activities into Argentina, but they were not allowed to enter the country.

He acknowledged that the telephone tapping system that is used in the country is archaic, and he explained that only judges can order telephone tapping. Earlier, tapping was carried out for political or economic objectives, but currently nothing is done outside the law, he added.

Finally, he said that the government does not allow Chilean intelligence personnel to operate in the country to prevent possible attacks by Chilean exiles, although he acknowledged that there have been some cases when this has happened.

On Shining Path Group

*PY3005193888 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1726 GMT 30 May 88*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 May (NA)—Today Facundo Suarez, head of SIDE reported that a very small group of Shining Path group members entered Argentina a little over 1 year ago, but they only intended to enter Chile through its southern region.

"Four people entered the country normally but then they tried to enter Chile a few days later. For that reason, our personnel checked their luggage and found some documents that were rather crude," Suarez explained, expanding on his statements published today by Buenos Aires morning papers.

Suarez said at that time SIDE personnel acted on the basis of "the obligation embodied in the concept of solidarity, which established that everything should be done to prevent actions that would harm the security of a neighboring country."

"As they did not have the necessary documents for a tourist trip, they were questioned and sent back to their country, in accordance with the authority granted by the Argentine Constitution," Suarez said.

In an interview with the Radio Excelsior program "No Concessions," Suarez emphasized: "This was the only occasion in my 2 years as the head of SIDE that we have seen members of the Shining Path."

Caputo Views OAU Meeting, Major Issues

*PY2705152988 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1324 GMT 27 May 88*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 May (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has said that the speech that President Raul Alfonsin will deliver at the United Nations next Monday will be particularly important and significant, adding that at the United Nations, Argentina will concentrate on two areas: politics within the United Nations, and the economic issue in connection with our foreign debt.

Caputo said that after attending a Nonaligned Movement meeting in the Ethiopian [as received] capital, he will join Alfonsin in New York on Monday to attend a special United Nations disarmament meeting.

Concerning the nuclear energy sector, Caputo said that Argentina must engage in commercial deals and that it must share its technology for peaceful uses, without any restrictions in either commercial or technological cooperation.

In a statement to Radio el Mundo, he stressed the need for a more active presence on the African Continent, explaining that a major Argentine foreign policy goal is to continue maintaining relations with that part of the world.

Caputo made these remarks from Addis Ababa, where he is attending an OAU meeting.

Yesterday, Caputo attended an African presidential summit that was attended by some 30 chiefs of state. According to Caputo the summit outlined three major problem areas that are common to both continents: the foreign debt, the price slump on the world market, and the social cost of restructuring and economic programs.

Caputo said that the international scenario means, at the same time, restrictions and possibilities, because both the foreign debt and foreign trade are factors within that scenario. On the other hand, however, when we try to find solutions to poverty and backwardness we know that we have to look for them abroad, Caputo maintained.

Caputo said that next week will be significant because the first part will be used to address the foreign debt problem, and the second part to the signing of a general cooperation treaty with Spain, which we consider to be one of the key factors for triggering Argentine development, he noted. This is a clear proof that Argentine foreign policy is not far from the everyday life of Argentines, he said, adding that if our problems originate abroad, the solutions will also come from abroad.

He stressed that Africa can provide us with opportunities, but they will not show up by themselves; one should look for them and show one's interest to reap the benefits later.

To Leave Ethiopia for Cuba, U.S.

*PY2705201588 Buenos Aires Domestic Service
in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 May 88*

[Text] According to the Foreign Ministry, Foreign Minister Dante Caputo will finish his mission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at midnight tonight. In Addis Ababa he is participating in the deliberations of the OAU summit.

Tomorrow, Caputo will depart for Havana, Cuba, to participate in the meeting of the nonaligned countries, to discuss the United Nations special assembly on disarmament scheduled to begin 1 July.

Caputo will then travel to New York to meet with President Alfonsin.

Former President Frondizi on Trip to USSR

*PY2705131388 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
0413 GMT 27 May 88*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 May (TELAM)—Former President Arturo Frondizi's press office has released a communique signed by the political leader that contains the details of his recent trip to the Soviet Union.

The communique indicates that during his stay in that country, Frondizi negotiated Argentina's proposed membership of the Inter-Action Council of the World's Former Chiefs of State, which met for the fifth time in Moscow at the express request of Chairman Mikhail Gorbachev. Frondizi also met with Soviet personalities.

Frondizi adds in his communique: In addition to the obligations with the council, my Moscow stay was very pleasant. I was able to appreciate interesting factors pertaining to the Soviet life-style and system through contacts with common people, officials, executives, and with people working in the cultural, religious, and press sectors.

He then refers to the council's debates, which were held between 17 and 20 May with former FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt presiding. Former Japanese Premier Takeo Fukuda was named honorary chairman, and 32 representatives from throughout the world participated in the meeting.

Finally, the communique indicates that when Frondizi returned to the country he observed that we Argentines continue with our irrelevant discussions between those who govern and their adversaries due to the lack of a responsible answer regarding the nation's future, and he says that he has returned to Argentina to work until his dying day for our fatherland.

Jaunarena Says Nuclear Purposes Peaceful
PY3005020188 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
2015 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] San Salvador de Jujuy, 29 May (TELAM)—Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena has stated that Argentina will only use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and that there is not much more to say on this subject because the national government's policy in this regard is well-defined.

Jaunarena thus answered a reporter's question on the possibility of using nuclear energy for military purposes, should Congress approve a law in this regard.

The defense minister met with the media after participating, together with Argentine legislators and government officials, in the ceremony commemorating the 178th anniversary of the Army.

The minister said that the budget for his ministry will be maintained at similar percentage levels to those of last year, although he did not give further details on the subject.

Regarding the sale of TAM tanks to Ecuador, he said that this vehicle has been subject to several tests and has proven to be of high quality, which gives us great satisfaction because conditions are right to close the deal quickly, and there are no obstacles. We are going to make this sale.

Regarding the Pampa aircraft, he explained that three units per month are currently being produced. Jaunarena said that this aircraft is being studied by several armed forces, including the U.S. Armed Forces, because it is designed for training purposes and can be sold abroad. Therefore, it represents a good possibility for a new industry in Cordoba.

Maria Julia Alsogaray, deputy for the Democratic Centrist Union, added that nuclear weapons are not part of the Argentine defense system because nuclear energy is not contemplated in the South Atlantic defense scheme.

Maria Julia Alsogaray, second vice president of the Chamber of Deputies Defense Committee, said she believes the subject should be discussed later because, for the time being, such a possibility is quite unlikely.

When she was asked about the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty, the legislator said she is in favor of its reorganization, explaining that the war over the Malvinas showed us that, as a system, it is ineffective, but it is a subject that should be discussed in the near future.

Justicialist Deputy Miguel Miguel Toma said we are gradually reaching a definite reconciliation of the Armed Forces with the citizenry, and this is a matter of great importance to his party because it is one of Peronism's objectives at all levels and is a way of supporting the democratic system.

Toma, first vice president of the Defense Committee, said that Army Commander General Dante Caridi's message was very significant and that it had been an extremely important and auspicious day, in every sense, for the future relationship of the government and Armed Forces.

Foreign Financing Sought for Nuclear Program
PY3105211888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1540 GMT 31 May 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 31 May (TELAM)—CNEA President Emma Perez Ferreira has announced that efforts are being made to get financing from Switzerland and the FRG to continue building the Atucha II nuclear plant and the Arroyito heavy water plant.

She also said that the current CNEA budget is similar to its 1987 budget and that the possibility of getting foreign financial aid was accounted for in the current budget.

She made these comments at the conclusion of the celebration marking the 38th CNEA anniversary and "Atomic Energy Day." She added that the funds provided by the national treasury are not enough to continue with the Atucha II and Arroyito plants.

She said the projects will not stop if foreign financial aid is obtained. In this regard she added: We either get foreign financial aid to make a good investment to continue the projects, or we will have to stop them.

In a speech during the ceremony at CNEA headquarters, she said the current budget is not as large as in the past, but we must be aware of the serious economic crisis affecting our country.

She concluded by saying that the recent energy crisis clearly showed the vulnerability of the national electrical system and the important role played by the CNEA nuclear plants. [passage omitted]

Country To Help Turkey Get Nuclear Technology
NC3105081488 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish
25 May 88 pp 3, 15

[Atilla Atakan report: "Diplomacy With Argentina on Nuclear Technology"]

[Text] Buenos Aires, (HURRIYET)—Although the United States has come out against Turkey's sale to Pakistan of components used in the production of nuclear arms, reports say that Argentina's new ambassador to Ankara, Adolfo Saracho, a former head of Argentina's nuclear energy commission, will try "to help Turkey acquire nuclear technology."

Argentina is well-advanced in nuclear technology. Its decision to appoint Adolfo Saracho as its new ambassador to Turkey has made the U.S., USSR, and FRG diplomatic missions in Buenos Aires uneasy. They believe that Turkey's acquisition of nuclear technology would be disadvantageous. Adolfo Saracho made a significant contribution to the 3 May signing of an agreement between Turkey and Argentina for "cooperation between the two countries in nuclear technology." The new ambassador arrived in Ankara yesterday.

Prior to his departure from Argentina, he told HURRIYET: "We would like Turkey to learn about the technology Argentina has acquired during the past 20 years. We can help Turkey build reactors and nuclear power plants in the future. Our objective is to help Turkey develop its nuclear technology, without depending on any country or bloc."

Noting that Argentina objected to any interference by the superpowers in its work in nuclear energy, Adolfo Saracho noted that Argentina made it a condition that nuclear technology be used passively and for peaceful purposes. He said: "I know my task is difficult. Due to its proximity to countries which cooperate with Argentina, such as India, Iraq, Algeria, Romania, Yugoslavia, and Albania, Turkey is a very important country."

Briefs

Jan, Feb Trade Surplus

Buenos Aires, 27 May (TELAM)—The Argentine trade surplus in January and February 1988 totaled \$239 million, 11.2 percent higher than the 1987 surplus for the same period. January exports were \$493 million, and in February were \$471 million. Imports in January

amounted to \$424 million and in February to \$301 million. [Summary] [PY2905235888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0024 GMT 27 May 88]

Bolivia

UK's Eggar Says Antidrug Aid May Increase
PY2705131888 La Paz La Red Panamericana
in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Timothy Eggar, British foreign affairs under secretary, will return to his country today after making it clear that the eradication of coca farms is essential in the antidrug struggle. The British official, who yesterday overflowed the Beni Department areas in which the struggle against drug trafficking is being waged, will today visit Chapare to complete his report for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Eggar made it clear that the antidrug struggle will succeed only if a coca eradication plan is enforced and if it is complemented by action against drug processing, sale, and addiction.

Eggar said that he believes the antidrug effort will succeed only if carried out following the guidelines that were provided by Great Britain, adding that his country is very interested in continuing to aid the programs formulated by the government.

In view of the international concern on the issue, Eggar visited the coca-producing regions. He said that in the future there may be more help for the antidrug effort.

Eggar is scheduled to leave at 2030.

Brazil

Sarney on Constituent Assembly, Debt, Economy
PY2805015488 Brasilia Domestic Service in Spanish
2200 GMT 27 May 88

[Excerpts] During this morning's "By the Radio" program, President Sarney commented on the Constituent Assembly, the agreement with the IMF, the inflation rate, and the unemployment rate.

Sarney also commented on the record crop and the current crisis:

[Begin Sarney recording] I must say that there are several indications that we are reaching the end of the longest and most difficult crisis in our history, which I had the unpleasant task of presiding over. [passage omitted]

The Constituent Assembly's work is reaching its end. This means that we reacted well to one of the greatest challenges ever faced by the various sectors of our society. As a result of this work, the country experienced

political unrest and an atmosphere of electoral conflicts of interest that in this decisive moment of our history adversely affected the profound debate over the nation's destiny. [passage omitted]

We are also reaching the end of the negotiation of the foreign debt, which represented a serious problem. We are thus reintegrating Brazil into the international community by making the best agreement ever reached with the debtor countries. Our agreement gives us 20 years to pay the debt with an 8-year grace period. We are now paying less interest than before and the spreads [preceding word in English] are much lower.

This agreement will also secure for us new credits from the official international agencies, as well as more investments. [passage omitted]

On the domestic front, the inflation rate is decreasing, although slowly. Sensationalists have announced that the inflation rate for May would be very high. It has not been—it was only 17.78 percent. Those who announce such increases act just like the terrorists who want to frighten the people. The unemployment rate remained low. This means we are not experiencing recession and that the country is still growing. The unemployment rate is, as a matter of fact, slightly lower now. [passage omitted]

We have had the opportunity of announcing our history's greatest record crop, which was bigger than last year's super crop.

Our trade surplus was the greatest ever. We decreed a new industrial policy, which brought democratic liberalization to the economic sector. We have made import policies more liberal and will make the economy more liberal in order to allow our country to get ready for the 21st century with accelerated scientific and technological development.

In the political field, the parties are showing signs of becoming more organized in order to better perform their roles. Parties are leaving political radicalism behind and giving new opportunities to common sense and to a better understanding of Brazil's difficulties. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Finance Minister Says Deal With IMF Possible
PY2805035988 *Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese*
2200 GMT 27 May 88

[By reporter Marli Moreira]

[Text] Today Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega said after a luncheon with businessmen of the Sao Paulo capital market that Brazil might reach an agreement with the IMF next week.

[Begin Nobrega recording] We believe the negotiations will end next week, much earlier than we expected. This shows that we now have a better public sector information system. This system made discussions with the IMF easier and faster.

The IMF mission made no additional demand. We are now sure that the 4-percent-of-GDP deficit will be accepted by the IMF as an appropriate effort by the Brazilian economy, an effort that was in accordance with our needs. The program is Brazilian and has been discussed with the IMF as a program resulting from Brazil's needs. I am sure the IMF will accept it. [end recording]

Regarding the possibility of modifying the exchange policy, as requested by some sectors of the Brazilian economy, Minister Mailson da Nobrega asserted that this measure will not be adopted because it would negatively affect the entire Brazilian economy.

Da Nobrega also confirmed the government decision to increase imports, particularly in the area of assets, and to decrease the trade surplus.

[Begin Nobrega recording] The businessmen, themselves, take it for granted that the trade surplus will be \$15 billion. The government, however, does not want this to happen. It will adopt measures to stimulate imports. Although such a surplus is important to accumulate reserves, it is negative for the medium-term economy. We already tried to do something to prevent this by asking the National Monetary Council to increase the number of exemptions on the import of basic goods. We will also study with CACEX [Foreign Trade Department] some additional mechanisms to increase certain imports, particularly in the field of basic goods. [end recording] The finance minister concluded by denying any possibility of hyperinflation. He said that the 17.78-percent inflation rate for the month of May shows that the inflation rate will decrease in the next few months.

Arrangement With Mexico To Reduce Foreign Debt
PY3105151988 *Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese*
30 May 88 p 13

[Text] Beginning in July, Brazil and Mexico will implement a trade agreement that will allow both countries to reduce their foreign debt. In its first stage, this arrangement should reduce the real value of both countries' foreign debt by \$100 million, according to an estimate made by Ernesto Yacomán, head of the state enterprise Nacional Financiera of Mexico. Under this arrangement, the two countries will trade \$100 million worth of goods. Nacional Financiera of Mexico and Banespa of Sao Paulo will finance 50 percent of that amount, and the other 50 percent will be paid with foreign debt certificates. Those certificates will then be negotiated in the international market so that each country may recover the amounts it financed. In turn, those certificates will be internally redeemed by the respective country, which will thus write off foreign debt claims.

Third Debt Conversion Auction Held in Rio
PY2805184388 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO
in Portuguese 27 May 88 p A-30

[Excerpt] With surprising depreciation rates [taxas de desagio] of 22 percent for the area without incentives and 0.5 percent (this was the first proposal) for the area with incentives, the Rio de Janeiro stock market (BVRJ) yesterday ended the third foreign debt conversion auction sponsored by the Central Bank (BC) without reaching the \$150-million ceiling that was expected to be converted. Only \$50.7 million was converted for the area with incentives, for a total converted amount of \$125.7 million (the \$75-million ceiling of the area without incentives was converted at the auction). In the two previous auctions, the depreciation rates for the areas with and without incentives were 10.5 and 15 percent, and 27 and 32 percent, respectively.

The auction for the area without incentives did not reach a lower rate because when the rate stood at 15.5 percent and when the brokers showed their interest in converting \$82.5 million, Unibanco, which is a broker, submitted a \$16.5-million offer. This caused the \$75-million figure to be reached only when the rate reached 22 percent. Since the final offer was for \$75 million, there was no residual amount (the difference between the final offer and the \$75-million ceiling) for prorating. [passage omitted]

Energy Cooperation Agreement Signed With PRC
PY2805031488 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese
2200 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] PRC experts will cooperate with the Sao Paulo energy sector. Today the Council for the Administration of Electricity Companies signed an agreement with the PRC delegation for bilateral technical cooperation in the field of energy, thus developing additional technological alternatives for the energy sector in Sao Paulo. The agreement involves the construction of small hydroelectric plants.

Sao Paulo Energy Co. Chairman Wilson de Araujo Costa commented on the sector's expectations regarding this agreement:

[Begin Araujo Costa recording] Up to now the Brazilian energy sector has emphasized the construction of large plants. But in Sao Paulo State, for example, the rivers with sufficient potential energy for large hydroelectric plants have already been used. Now we must start building small and medium-sized plants to utilize available potential in the state. [end recording]

Colombia

'Extraditables' Make Demands in Kidnapping
PA3105162788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1447 GMT
31 May 88

[Text] Bogota, 31 May (EFE)—"The Extraditables," a gang of narcotics traffickers who today took credit for the kidnapping of Socialist Conservative leader Alvaro Gomez, confirmed that he sustained bullet wounds and presented conditions to his family to return him alive.

"The Extraditables," who are considered the armed branch of the Medellin Cartel, took credit for the kidnapping in a telephone call to Radio Todelar, saying that he was kidnapped in reprisal for the sentence imposed on Carlos Lehder. They demanded an end to the extradition of Colombians to the United States.

In the same telephone call, the kidnappers issued conditions that are being held secret. When the conditions are met, they will release Alvaro Gomez safe and sound, the caller said.

The family, following instructions from "the Extraditables," this morning released a radio communique informing the kidnappers that in Bogota, Medellin, and Bucaramanga medical teams are standing by with sufficient means of transportation to be taken wherever Alvaro Gomez is being held.

The family added that Alvaro Gomez' blood type is A positive and that they are waiting for further instructions.

The anonymous voice that took credit for the kidnapping said that Alvaro Gomez, with bullet wounds in his right foot and right arm, was taken out of Bogota in a helicopter and that he is in a safe place.

The same voice warned that if the conditions are not met, "we will return him dead at the same place where Andres Pastrana was found."

The presumed kidnapper said that at 1800 (2300 GMT) today, Alvaro Gomez will speak on the telephone to Radio Todelar.

In January, "the Extraditables" took credit for the kidnapping and murder of Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos and of the kidnapping of Bogota mayoral candidate Andres Pastrana, a Social Conservative.

Group Denies Holding Gomez

PA3105173788 Paris AFP in Spanish 1654 GMT
31 May 88

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 31 May (AFP)—A communique written by "the Extraditables" of the Colombian drug mafia denies that the group is holding Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, 69, a former presidential candidate of Colombia's opposition Conservative Party, who was kidnapped on Sunday in a bloody operation in Bogota, in which his bodyguard was killed.

"We are not the masterminds of the Gomez Hurtado kidnapping; therefore, we are not holding the political leader," the Extraditables' communique states. The communique was delivered to various radio stations in this city in northwestern Colombia around 1610 GMT.

Military Officers Killed During Peasant March
*PA3005195188 Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1
in Spanish 1750 GMT 30 May 88*

[Text] In San Vicente, Chucuri, Santander Department, a colonel, a captain, two noncommissioned officers, two enlisted men, and nine peasants were murdered in confusing incidents during the peasant march to the city of Bucaramanga. Carlos Mario Diaz spoke to General Rafael Rojas, commander of the 14th Brigade.

[Begin recording] [Rojas] The (Colonel Luciano Lulle) Infantry Battalion here is in mourning. The battalion's commanding officer is dead. A great fighter has died. He died the way in which great men die, leading their troops. At the present time we are in mourning. In spite of that, the 14th Brigade, which is in charge of controlling this region, where public order has been disrupted for so long, will continue its operations to find those people who engage in unlawful behavior and continue to attempt to destabilize the country.

[Reporter] General, has it been possible to determine who fired on the battalion commander?

[Rojas] At the present time, we do not know exactly, because you have to look at the special circumstances—a crowd assembled in an inhospitable area of our country. It will be very difficult to determine who the aggressors were. Generally, it is misguided subversives infiltrated into the masses who cause such regrettable events as today's. [end recording]

Minister on Kidnapping, Peasant March Violence
*PA3005035288 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish
0232 GMT 30 May 88*

[Speech by Cesar Gaviria Trujillo, minister in charge of the Presidency; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Colombians: Very serious incidents occurred today. These are incidents that go against our democracy. This is the reason why, in my capacity as minister with presidential duties, I am addressing the country after being in touch throughout the day with President Virgilio Barco and after receiving specific instructions from him so every measure can be taken to restore normalcy.

I am legally empowered to take these measures. All presidential powers, except for foreign relations, have been delegated to me.

At noon today, Dr Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, Conservative Party leader and former presidential candidate, was kidnapped by a group of as yet unidentified criminals after they killed one of Gomez's bodyguards, who were providing round-the-clock protection.

We immediately ordered the implementation of a security operation to detain the kidnappers and return Dr Gomez Hurtado safe and sound to his home.

We do not know who had the audacity to kidnap Dr Alvaro Gomez or what their intentions are. It is clear, however, that his captors aim to create a climate of anxiety, frighten people, and destabilize our institutions. This is a typical terrorist act not only against one person or a family but against the entire Colombian democracy. This is how we must view this repulsive kidnapping. This is how we must face it.

The government will use all its resources to rescue Dr Gomez. Those who think they can corner the authorities or weaken our democracy through violence or intimidation are wrong. I ask all citizens to remain alert and help the authorities in the operations to search for and neutralize the terrorists. I ask all citizens to report to the security organizations everything that may help our investigations. Those who help us effectively will not only receive the reward established in the state of siege decrees issued by the government and the necessary protection, but they will be fulfilling a patriotic duty.

In addition, a very serious clash occurred today between the security forces and a group of terrorists who had infiltrated the peasant march. This incident occurred in Llama Caliente, San Vicente de Chucuri, Santander Department, when the terrorists fired several rounds of automatic weapons while the battalion commander was trying to calm the marchers down. Lieutenant Colonel Rogelio Correa Campos, Captain Carlos Alfonso Morales Del Rio, and a soldier were killed. In addition, two noncommissioned officers and six soldiers were seriously wounded in this attack. Nine peasants lost their lives in the cross fire. Another 18 wounded peasants were taken to San Vicente Hospital.

These are deaths caused by a group of terrorist fanatics who have killed members of both the public security forces and the peasant population. Their murderous bullets and their attacks on the national wealth have completely distorted the sense of the right to march the peasants have.

This government has respected the right to dissent and the peaceful protest demonstrations, which are inherent in any democratic society. Marches and demonstrations have not been restricted during this administration. Everything seems to indicate that this liberal policy does not satisfy the expectations of the groups that want to impose terror and violence. Now, in desperation, they have started a confrontation with the public security forces because this government policy reaffirms the virtues of the democratic system.

The assassination of the military officers in Santander is a vile action against the Colombian Armed Forces that the government does not tolerate, even to a lesser degree if the caution with which the Army and the police have acted in the current public order situation is taken into account.

The military forces must know they have the government's respect and the Colombian people's solidarity. The relatives of the murdered soldiers and peasants have our sincere sympathy.

In view of this new violent criminal strategy, the government has decided to disband by peaceful means the remaining peasant demonstrations. In addition, it has ordered a curfew for tonight in the towns of Cano Limon, La Yuca, and La Pesquera in the Arauca Intendancy. The government is controlling movement in San Vicente de Chucuri municipality, Santander Department, so those injured in that region can receive medical attention.

Starting tomorrow, the governors will facilitate the dispersal of the peasant concentrations by supplying means of transportation.

As President Barco told newsmen tonight, we are going to show that we are stronger than terrorism; we are going to show that our institutions are able to resist this challenge.

Right now it is essential that the Colombian people show maturity and calmness. If we are capable of showing these qualities and if we act accordingly, we will isolate those who stop at nothing to disturb Colombian life.

I have been granted ample authority to defend public order. I am acting with all the necessary firmness, and I will continue to act decisively so the terrorists will be punished with the full weight of the law.

I know the most fervent desire of all Colombians is that the criminals be harshly punished, that our freedoms be effectively defended, that order be reestablished, and that peace return to our homes.

We must all respond with firmness and calmness to the tremendous challenge we are now confronting. Good night.

Report on Peasant Marches, Violence, Bombs

PA2705132788 [Editorial Report] Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish at 1215 GMT on 26 May broadcasts a series of reports on the current wave of violence in the country.

The lead report from Bogota indicates that "most of the national territory, especially northeastern Colombia, is experiencing one of the worst outbreaks of public disorder in the wake of the escalation of terrorism and violence as a result of the peasant marches promoted by opposition organizations and even leftist guerrilla groups. Santander, Norte de Santander, southern Cesar, and Magdalena Departments and the cities of Cali and Medellin are at this time the areas most affected by disturbances." It adds that Barrancabermeja port, the country's main petroleum center, is the center of the greatest strife "following last night's disturbances, the murder of an Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] union leader which led to a 48-hour strike in the

state-owned enterprise, and the civic strike begun at midnight by peasants who are being prevented from continuing their march to Bucaramanga."

According to a report by a correspondent in Medellin, "the toll from the violence in Medellin's metropolitan area last night and early this morning was five people killed, dynamite attacks on bank branches and government buildings, and the destruction of two buses." The correspondent states that the police report that "a death squad killed five men" in eastern Medellin.

Reporting from Cali, correspondent Freddy Leon Cuelar states that the authorities discovered a huge terrorist plan against the city's main shopping centers. He adds that although 10 explosive devices were deactivated, the authorities were unable to prevent the total destruction with explosives of the La Catorce Department Store located inside the Cosmocentro Shopping Mall.

The correspondent in Bucaramanga reports that "the situation in Santander Department is normal but tense. The most difficult situation is in Barrancabermeja, located 2 hours from Bucaramanga, where traffic has been cut off" because of the peasant marches. He explains that "about 900 peasants are surrounded by troops on the Bucaramanga-Barrancabermeja road while 6,000 other peasants have gathered in [name indistinct] in San Vicente de Chucuri jurisdiction." The correspondent adds that they are demanding to speak with Attorney General Horacio Serpa Uribe and threatening to clash with the police.

The Barrancabermeja correspondent reports that 4,000 Ecopetrol workers began a 48-hour strike to protest the murder of a former vice president of their union. He adds that Ecopetrol manager Victor Soto said that activity is normal in the enterprise because it is working with trusted personnel. The correspondent says that "there are no disorder, the troops have been restricted to quarters, and only some police patrols are evident in the city."

In the last report, the correspondent in Sincelejo indicates that "strict measures are being carried out by military and police units to prevent a new peasant march announced for the next few hours. Caracol has learned that 36 peasants and 9 students were arrested after they were evicted from the diocesan offices yesterday." He concludes by stating that the police commander said that peasant marches will not be permitted in Sucre Department.

Defense Minister Comments

PA2705140988 Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 May 88

[Report on interview with Defense Minister General Rafael Samudio Molina by unidentified reporter—date and place not given]

[Text] This is a last minute report. Defense Minister General Rafael Samudio Molina has confirmed that the country's troops have been kept in their garrisons on a first-degree alert due to the public order situation. The minister spoke to "Cinevision."

[Begin recording] [Samudio] There have been about seven or eight terrorist actions, which are mainly affecting people and the users of gas, which is essential for cooking, and there are also the demonstrations. I believe there are about eight gatherings with no more than 200 people each and two major ones: in Convencion, in northern Santander, and in San Vicente de Chucuri.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, the public order situation is very serious. Do you believe President Barco should return, as former President Misael Pastrana Borrero says?

[Samudio] Well, I will not comment on the request that former President Pastrana could have made; I know nothing about it. We have a minister in charge here; there is a government here. The government has assessed the situation and has taken action. Although we are worried, we are not facing a very grave public order situation. The military forces can handle the situation. The troops have been confined to their barracks, and we are ready to face the situation and reestablish order wherever it is disturbed.

[Reporter] Is this first-degree alert confinement a definitive solution to the country's public order problems?

[Samudio] No, it is no solution; it is a preventive measure, which is different. [end recording]

Barrancabermeja Strike; Military Controls Roads
PA2905221988 Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 2
in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] The situation in Barrancabermeja is as follows: All land, air, and river transportation is on strike. There is a general strike, one person has been killed, one student has been wounded, a bus and the [words indistinct] offices were burned, all business transactions are at a standstill, and there is a shortage of food. All of this is the result of a peasants' march. The mayor of this petroleum port met with the leaders of the march, but they did not reach any agreement. The marchers have gathered near the USO [Workers Trade Union] headquarters and have adequate supplies to stay there as long as necessary.

In Bucaramanga, meanwhile, the four roads leading into the metropolitan area are under military control. Intelligence personnel foiled a terrorist plot against the power station on La Rosita Avenue and 19th Street. Another section of the oil and gas pipelines bringing fuel from Barrancabermeja to Bucaramanga was blown up a few days ago.

There is much tension right now, and the 5th Brigade has carried out a thorough patrol in the southern area of El Cesar, Ocana, and Arauca. Police Chief Colonel Luis Enrique Montenegro made the following statements:

[Begin Montenegro recording] The police and military measures taken by the government have been successful due to the discipline and civic feelings of the residents of this

beautiful area. Two people were arrested. They were carrying explosives that were probably going to be used shortly. They were also carrying a map of the area where the La Rosita Avenue power station is located. They were probably going to carry out an attack there. [end recording]

UP Members Machinegunned in Park; 4 Killed
PA2905192388 Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1
in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 May 88

[Excerpt] Meta Department flags will fly at half-mast for 3 days as a sign of mourning for Assembly President Carlos Cobas Batista, also a member of the Patriotic Union [UP]. Cobas and three other UP members were murdered and will be buried in Villavicencio next Monday.

Everything happened very quickly and was witnessed by many people only 80 meters away from the governor's office. At approximately 1900, Carlos Cobas met with [name indistinct], Nestor Rojas, and Marcos Sanchez at the pizza parlor in Villavicencio's Central Park, where they were machinegunned by several individuals, who fled immediately. [passage omitted]

Ecuador

Government Declares State of Emergency
PA3105232888 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2246 GMT
31 May 88

[Text] Quito, 31 May (DPA)—This afternoon the Ecuadoran Government declared a state of emergency throughout the country and suspended constitutional guarantees, hours before the beginning of the "national combative strike" called by the Sole Workers Front.

The decree, declaring the entire Ecuadoran territory as a "security zone," was issued minutes after Army forces occupied the engineering school in Quito, amid an intense shootout heard throughout most of the city.

Radio reports say that "many wounded" have been evacuated from the university campus, which was occupied at 1605 (2105 GMT) and continued under police custody at the end of the afternoon.

The Workers Front's "national combative strike" will begin at 0600 on Wednesday (1100 GMT), even though the Leon Febres-Cordero administration has declared it illegal and has threatened to adopt "drastic punishments" against those who join the strike, which is scheduled to last 24 hours.

The strike is supported by peasant, student, and Indian organizations, and by the National Union of Teachers, which has been on strike for 11 days. It was preceded by a wave of street disturbances, which have resulted in dozens of people injured and 150 people arrested.

Presidency Communique

PA3105235188 Quito Radio Quito
in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 May 88

[Communique issued by the Presidency on 31 May]

[Text] In order to protect the Ecuadoran citizens from acts of vandalism that threaten the life and safety of individuals and private and public property, today Leon Febres-Cordero Ribadeneyra, constitutional president of the Republic, signed Executive Decree No 4011, which declares a state of national emergency. The president acted under the authorization of the provisions established by Constitution Article 78, particularly paragraph M, and Article 7 of the National Security Law.

While the first article of the decree declares a state of national emergency, Article 2 declares the entire territory of the Republic as a security zone, subject to the law. According to what is established by the country's juridical order, constitutional guarantees have been suspended within the terms and the limits established in Constitution Article 78, paragraph M, No 6; that is to say, the inviolability of life. In addition, the military sector has been ordered to fulfill what is established in Articles 40 and 58 of the National Security Law; the communications media, which attempted to subvert legal order, will be under censorship; and the issuing of the decree will be brought to the attention of the Constitutional Guarantees Tribunal, because the National Congress is not currently meeting.

Referring to the grounds for the measure, it was stated that the incitement to the national strike and stoppages on 1 June 1988 is an attack on the juridical order. The document added that the aforementioned [words indistinct] might lead to vandalism and attacks on the lives of individuals and public and private property, causing a grave state of internal commotion. The president also stressed that it is essential that the Republic's juridical and democratic system be maintained and defended, that the domestic order and security be protected, and [words indistinct] the measures established for this purpose by the Constitution and laws of the Republic. He noted that the current phase of Ecuador's democratic life, which will culminate with the handing over of the presidential mandate, an act of special significance in the country's life, is fully developing. He also referred to the powers conferred by Constitution Article 78, paragraph M, and Article 7, paragraph (7K) of the National Security Law.

Minister Warns Strikers

PA0106033288 Paris AFP in Spanish 0240 GMT
1 Jun 88

[Text] Quito, 31 May (AFP)—Tonight Ecuadoran Government Minister Heinz Moeller warned that the Armed Forces and the police will use all available means to suppress a nationwide 24-hour strike on Wednesday that will be take place after the establishment of a state of emergency and of a security zone as decreed by President Leon Febres-Cordero.

"To suppress disorders and anarchy, the Armed Forces will utilize its methods and instruments; let there be no doubts about that," Moeller warned during a news conference.

The minister stressed that "we have been and continue to be open to dialogue, but not under the pressure of illegal or forceful actions."

The state of emergency specifies the suspension of constitutional guarantees and establishes "prior censorship of social communications media that may try to disrupt order."

Moeller said that the strike movement "began as a class movement, but it has been distorted, politicized, and radicalized," that it is now "illegal and antidemocratic," and that the state of emergency will be lifted "as soon as possible."

On the other hand, he said that the incident that took place this afternoon—when Army units entered the university campus of the National Polytechnic Institute—began after "an open attack against Armed Forces members" who were off duty and passing by the area.

He said the automobile of a high-ranking officer was involved in the incident that "led to the logical reaction, the legitimate reaction" of a contingent from the nearby Military Hospital, a contingent that went to defend the victims of the attack.

"University autonomy cannot imply territorial sovereignty so crimes can be committed on the university campus," he said, adding that the officers fired shots in the air to scare people.

Several bullet holes were found on the university walls, but no one was hurt, although 27 students were arrested and turned over to the national police, who, in turn, delivered them to the corresponding authorities.

Moeller said that "transportation, security, lives, and properties are all guaranteed."

The strike has been called by the Sole Workers Front (FUT), the National Coordinating Board of Workers (CNT), and the Confederation of Ecuadoran Indigenous Groups (CONAIE), who are demanding an increase of the minimum wage, a freeze of the prices of staples, and a rejection of an increase in transportation rates.

Today their leaders reiterated that the strike will take place. It is the seventh strike Febres-Cordero has had to confront in his 4 years of government. On 10 August, he will turn power over to his successor, Social Democrat Rodrigo Borja.

Borja Leaves for Medical Checkup in U.S.
PA0106032588 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish
0300 GMT 1 Jun 88

[Text] Today President-Elect Rodrigo Borja Cevallos left for the United States to undergo a medical checkup. His relatives supplied the information, adding that the president-elect left the country on an Eastern flight.

Borja said he is feeling very well, but his responsibility to the country obliges him to undergo a general checkup. He is scheduled to return this weekend to continue his political meetings in order to complete the naming of his cabinet.

Paraguay

Foreign Minister on Talks, Ties With U.S.
PY2805024888 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
27 May 88 pp 8, 9

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] Today Foreign Relations Minister Carlos Augusto Saldivar said: "U.S. official Robert Hopper was here at the Foreign Ministry and he met with the under secretaries and other high officials of the Foreign Ministry to evaluate bilateral relations and our cooperation with international organizations.

Saldivar said that tours by U.S. officials through Latin American countries are routine at different times of the year.

He stated: "We asserted our firm and clear position on drug trafficking. We also clearly confirmed the cooperation of the Republic of Paraguay. We have made our position known not only at the U.S. Embassy here but also at the State Department in Washington and to U.S. congressmen."

He added: "This is why we have the support of the great majority of the Paraguayan people and the members of the Colorado Party for the policies of the Stroessner administration on this matter."

Saldivar did not comment on the results of the meeting with the U.S. official, but he said he is certain that the under secretaries must have stated our position with characteristic firmness."

Regarding intervention, Saldivar said: "We are against intervention. We have a long tradition against intervention in the internal affairs of other states. We have demonstrated the will of our people through the sacrifices of the Paraguayan people in the War of the Triple Alliance and the policies we have advocated since the birth of our independence under Jose Gaspar Rodriguez de Francia. Intervention is always harmful to bilateral relations. It hurts relations; we are against intervention, and we will continue in that line."

He added: "People should be governed in accordance with their own self-determination."

Saldivar said that Paraguayan-U.S. relations are normal. He said: "Relations are normal, we have cooperation, and we are working with the U.S. Government in international organizations. The visit of U.S. Ambassador Vernon Walters was a very important step and a milestone in the strengthening of bilateral relations. We believe that the results are positive and that they will continue to improve."

Minister Saldivar also said that "there is absolutely nothing new" in the case of Captain Napoleon Ortigoza and Hermes Rafael Saguier, who have sought asylum in the Colombian Embassy.

There were reports a few days ago about the possibility that the two individuals could leave the country without the safe-conduct requested by the Colombian Embassy to the government.

In this regard Saldivar said: "The press is reporting that. This ministry does not give reports but rather opinions on concrete facts."

Under Secretary Comments

PY2705155788 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
27 May 88 p 9

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Foreign Relations Under Secretary Francisco Barreiro Maffiodo has said that during his meeting with the State Department official [Robert Hopper] they only exchanged views.

Barreiro Maffiodo added: "They are insistent on the issue of drug trafficking, about which they say they are very concerned. I told him that the problem of drug trafficking is very important for us, but that it is much more important for rich countries that finance the consumption of the drug. If rich countries do not consume drugs, the trade would end and drug trafficking would not be a temptation. But they maintain that we should work together because their experience tells them that countries that are used for the transit of drugs end up affected and accustomed to using drugs."

Asked about Hopper's assessment that our relations with the United States are "not bad" (regulares), Barreiro Maffiodo said: "They are good. We have different views because situations are always changing and there are many interests involved. We are a relatively less developed country, without sea coasts, while they are a superpower."

"The difference lies in the way they perceive international situations. What they see as the defense of the security of the United States we see as intervention in the domestic affairs of our countries, and we have to protect

ourselves from this interventionism. This is the great difference we have regarding the principle of nonintervention. We are very sensitive about this because it easily hurts us."

"I told Hopper that the nationalistic instinct of our countries turns us to the left whenever we are faced with intervention, and this makes the Soviet Union seem friendlier than the United States," Barreiro Maffiodo concluded.

Colorado Legislator on Ortigoza, Saguier Case
PY2705161288 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
27 May 88 p 8

[Text] Roberto Velazquez Escobar, president of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Affairs Committee, has agreed with government spokesmen that former Captain Modesto Napoleon Ortigoza and Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA) member Hermes Rafael Saguier, who sought asylum at the Colombian Embassy, may leave the embassy without the need for a safe-conduct because "they have no political problems and are not persecuted for political reasons." Referring to Ortigoza, Velazquez said that "he may go abroad if he wishes to do so."

Upon stating that he is not aware of an official communique on Ortigoza and Saguier's situation, Velazquez Escobar said that "I believe that those people who sought asylum at the Colombian Embassy cannot be regarded as political refugees. To be considered a political refugee one must have been persecuted politically, and none of those people have ever been persecuted for their political beliefs."

The Colorado Party deputy added that "Saguier himself said that he went to the embassy only to accompany this delinquent who was tried. Once inside the Colombian Embassy he said he was persecuted for political reasons."

When it was mentioned that a police guard in front of Ortigoza's home prevented him from leaving and even fired at him when he suddenly left his house to go to the Colombian Embassy, Velazquez Escobar answered: "The guard in front of this gentleman's home was for his own safety and this guard did not know what was happening at that time; he probably thought it was a case of kidnapping. Moreover, the fact that bullets were fired at him does not turn him into a political refugee; it was the guard's natural reaction to do that, and it does not mean that he is being persecuted for political reasons."

When he was told that the guard prevented Ortigoza from leaving his home, the legislator said that "it is not that he was not allowed to leave. As you well know, this man committed a crime and the national authorities were aware of threats against him. This is why he was being guarded."

When he was asked whether Ortigoza would be allowed to go abroad, Velazquez Escobar answered: "He may go abroad if he wishes because he has no problems; he is and was completely free. He was being guarded for security reasons. We are not concerned over what may happen to him abroad."

Velazquez Escobar was asked whether Ortigoza and Saguier may leave the Colombian Embassy. He answered: "Naturally, they may leave the embassy without any problems, as the other Saguier, who was at the Argentine Embassy, did."

Regarding the permanent presence of police guards in front of the Colombian Embassy, Velazquez Escobar said: "It is just to protect the Colombian Embassy taking into account that the regulations regarding political asylum follow a series of procedures." He added that "no safe-conducts will be granted."

Regarding a government communique on the case, he said the government has already stated its position, "but these people do not want to understand this because all they seek is to be regarded as refugees in order to obtain safe-conducts and thus obtain who knows what from those international organizations that protect people like them."

Official Report Proposes Debt Renegotiation
PY2905021088 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
28 May 88 pp 12, 13

[Text] According to a report entitled "The Paraguayan Economy: Current Situation and Prospects," which was prepared recently by a group of experts representing the Finance Ministry, the Central Bank, and the Technical Planning Secretariat, the servicing of the Paraguayan foreign debt will cost \$365 million in 1988. According to the report, this servicing will require 70 percent of 1988 exports.

The report points out: "In order to regularly service its foreign debt in the next few years, Paraguay will have to reduce its economic growth rate to a minimum."

Therefore, the group of experts suggested "...a new policy regarding the regular servicing of the foreign debt" to be proposed to international cooperation organizations and to foreign creditors.

In other words, the report proposes that the government renegotiate the foreign debt. The report states: "As a matter of fact, if the renegotiation reduces the service of the foreign debt to 50 percent of the gross total of exports of basic goods and services, the country would have \$819 million for investments to accelerate the country's capitalization process over the next 5 years. This would allow the country to grow from 6 to 7 percent a year in the next few years."

The group of experts also points out that the main foreign creditors are: Brazilian banks and projects, \$454.2 million; French banks and suppliers, \$246.3 million; and Japanese banks and suppliers, \$127.3 million.

Peru

Shining Path Goals, Program Described

PY3005235288 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1916 GMT
30 May 88

[Text] Lima, 30 May (EFE)—According to a resolution at the Shining Path's first congress last February, this Maoist guerrilla movement intends to "demolish" the present Peruvian establishment within 3 years and liquidate the bourgeoisie if it does not accept a "political reeducation."

Shining Path leader Isidoro Nunja Garcia made this comment to the weekly CARETAS. Nunja was captured on 21 May after participating in a Shining Path attack on the Andahuasi Cooperative during which the cooperative manager and a worker at a nearby filling station were murdered.

The most radical wing prevailed at the congress, presided over by Professor Abimael Guzman, alias "President Gonzalo," founder and counselor of the movement, which also decided "to establish solid bases from which to take power."

The guerrilla congress proposed "to ruthlessly sweep away the revisionism and opportunism represented by the United Left."

The Shining Path promised to settle accounts with the Castroite Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), "the main enemy of the revolution."

During the interview, the 34-year-old Shining Path leader said that he abandoned his family to join the guerrillas and that he would like to see "Gonzalo," whom he does not know. He said Gonzalo must be "thin and have a different appearance because of plastic surgery," which he apparently underwent.

According to Nunja, Abimael Guzman, who is guarded by a group of bodyguards armed with modern weapons provided by drug traffickers, will come out in the open "as soon as the cities are surrounded," and "speak up."

"These are the terms of the pact with the drug traffickers," said the Shining Path leader, who was promoted 1 and 1/2 months ago. By this pact the party permits the peasants to grow coca, "which is the most profitable" occupation, but requires that all the coca be sold abroad, because only "the elites consume cocaine in the United States."

However, when asked about domestic consumption in Peru, Nunja said: "That is out of our control."

There is no such a thing as murder for Nunja, only "annihilation." He justified the killing of Father Acuna in Ayacucho a few months ago because Acuna "was just another member of the Army and was disseminating fascist ideology to children."

Nunja also said that the manager of the Andahuasi Cooperative was killed because he was a representative of the government. The destruction of the installation of an efficient company was due to its "semifeudal characteristics" and the fact that it received support from "imperialism" through the IMF.

Regarding the end of Peruvian bourgeoisie in case of a Shining Path victory, Nunja stressed that "they will be given political reeducation first, and only if this is not successful will they receive what we receive now: dictatorship, jail, and death."

Nunja concluded by saying: "They will have to accept the genocide we accept."

According to Interior Minister Juan Soria, Shining Path has a 5,000-strong army in Peru, and a recent survey indicates that 15 percent of those questioned think the subversives might win. This was only accepted by 4 percent a year ago.

Shining Path Holds Demonstration in Lima

PY0106031088 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
0100 GMT 1 Jun 88

[Text] Today Shining Path members, disguised as students of the San Fernando Medical School, caused disorder on Grau Avenue [in Lima], where they set tires on fire and attacked members of the security forces with guns, stones, and sharp objects.

The agitators hoisted flags bearing the hammer and sickle at various points on Grau Avenue and in several parts of the school premises.

One student was seriously wounded during the incidents and has reportedly died.

4,000 Policemen Resign Over Terrorist Threat

PY3105124788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2045 GMT
30 May 88

[Text] Lima, 30 May (EFE)—Today Lima deputy prefect (civil deputy governor) Victor Callantes reported that 4,000 policemen have resigned out of fear of increased terrorist activities in Peru.

Callantes said that the authorities are concerned about this attitude, because "we do not have enough policemen to fight terrorism and common crimes. In addition, 4,000 policemen have resigned."

Callantes called upon the youth to register with the National Police School in order to increase the number of policemen.

The current terrorist escalation, which began last week, has prompted the resignation of the policemen.

Today the newspaper "EL NACIONAL" reports that some policemen have deserted and have changed their identity using forged papers because their commanders have rejected their resignations.

Since 17 May 1980, when the Maoists of the Shining Path appeared in Ayacucho, where they destroyed the ballot boxes for an election that was to be held on the following day at the town of Chuschi, hundreds of policemen have been murdered by the terrorists.

To date the death toll stands at 262 Civil Guards, 111 Republican Guards, 22 Peruvian Investigative Police-men, 131 officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers of the Armed Forces, a priest, 3 police health service members, 180 government officials, 3,875 civilians, especially peasants, and 4,435 terrorists, especially those belonging to the Shining Path.

Terrorist Plan Foiled; Materiel Seized
PY3105135888 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish
1200 GMT 31 May 88

[Text] A sinister terrorist plan that would have caused a wave of attacks in Cerro de Pasco has been foiled by Republican Guardsmen who discovered and seized much materiel for producing bombs. In the Tajo area, near the Centromin plant, the guardsmen seized, among other items, 20 dynamite sticks, 7 homemade bombs with safety fuses, detonators, detonating cord, and 5 kg of dynamite. The police antiterrorist activities have recently become more intense in Cerro de Pasco.

Venezuela

UK Team Assessing Industrial Development
PA3105172988 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] Tim Renton, UK minister of state for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, has an extensive agenda for today. He has been visiting Venezuela since Saturday in the company of a team of British businessmen who are interested in Venezuela's economic and industrial development potential. Yesterday the visitor was in Barinas State, where he met with directors of the Simon Bolivar Agricultural and Technological University Institute, which is a member of the United World Colleges, whose president is the prince of Wales.

Today he will be received by Justice Minister (Pedro Aquiles de Recabudo) to discuss mechanisms for international cooperation on narcotics control. He will also meet (Francois Donat), roving ambassador for the Caribbean, and afterwards he will attend a luncheon in his honor at the Yellow Mansion [Foreign Ministry].

Meetings are also planned with the minister president of the Venezuelan Investment Fund, the president of Venezuela's Central Bank, and with the superintendent of foreign investments. Tomorrow he will hold a news conference to discuss the results of this visit.

Suriname

President Shankar on Brunswijk Ultimatum
FL2705183788 Paramaribo International Service
in English 1730 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Brunswijk and his gang are hardly a problem for the government. What worries the authorities is the presence of foreign advisers and military instructors in the terrorist gang.

This was made known yesterday afternoon by President Shankar during a press conference. The head of state couldn't say what is the nationality of these people but he did mention that they speak English.

According to the president, the fight against Suriname is being instigated and supported by external forces.

President Shankar has again called on terrorist leader Brunswijk not to take any actions which will endanger national security, order, and peace.

Yesterday the president said at the press conference that the committee of Christian churches has been asked to further negotiate between the government and the terrorist gang and try to find a solution before Monday.

Terrorist leader Brunswijk has issued an ultimatum to the government which has until Monday to meet his demands. The head of state also said that the terrorist gang should be dissolved now that, on the basis of the Constitution approved by the people, general elections have been held and state organs have been democratically established.

Also, the so-called liberation council in Holland has no right to (?access), according to President Shankar.

If the gang does not yield to dialogue but wishes to further destroy our economy, we will not remain passive. That is why the government has instructed the Army to protect the country and people, said the president.

Army Placed on Alert
FL2705140488 Hilversum International Service
in English 1030 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] The Army of Suriname has been placed on a state of alert because of the threat of surprise attacks by the Ronny Brunswijk jungle commando unit.

The measure was prompted by an ultimatum issued by Brunswijk which is due to expire on Monday.

The rebel leader is demanding that the Army withdraw from eastern Suriname and that a palm oil plant, also in the east of the country, be brought back into operation. He is also insisting that the government employ some of his men at the plantation.

If the government fails to meet his demands, Brunswijk says he will destroy the plant.

The plantation was closed in October 1986. This took place following an attack by the jungle commando unit.

Government Instructs Army

*FL2705181388 Paramaribo International Service
in English 1730 GMT 27 May 88*

[Text] The government has instructed the national Army to take measures for the protection of order, peace, and security of the country and people. This move was in light of the attitude and announced plans of terrorist leader Brunswijk, who issued an ultimatum to the government at the beginning of this week. This ultimatum expires on Monday, May 30th.

If the government does not meet his demands, Brunswijk will, among others, destroy the palm oil company Patamacca.

One of the demands is that the government sends (?managers) to Patamacca. Should the government accede to this demand, the terrorist leader will take care of the work force.

The demands and the consequences, should the government refuse, were made known in a cassette recording which Brunswijk sent to the government via two ex-kidnap workers of the palm oil company.

These announcements were made yesterday by President Shankar at a press conference. The press conference was held after the government on Wednesday informed the National Assembly about the situation in east Suriname.

About 80 million guilders have been invested in the palm oil company. Because of terrorist actions, the company suffered damages to the tune of some 25 million guilders.

Rebel Offensive Called Off

*FL3105122588 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English
1130 GMT 31 May 88*

[Text] A threatened rebel offensive near the Patamacca oil palm refinery in Suriname was called off yesterday. Rebel leader Ronny Brunswijk had threatened to destroy the area east of Moengo if he was not given control of the refinery by the deadline. Rebel leaders say he withdrew the ultimatum at the request of human rights activist Stanley Rensch. The Conference of Christian Churches in Suriname, which is trying to mediate an end to that guerrilla war, also called for the withdrawal of Mr Brunswijk's ultimatum.

Brunswijk Extends Ultimatum

*FL0106131088 Bonaire Trans World Radio
in English 1130 GMT 1 Jun 88*

[Text] Surinamese rebel leader Ronny Brunswijk has extended an ultimatum for the government to surrender a palm oil plantation. Mr Brunswijk says the government has another 2 weeks to turn over the plantation or face renewed jungle fighting.

Brunswijk 'Gang' Raids Victoria Palm Oil Co.

*FL2705185288 Paramaribo International Service
in English 1730 GMT 27 May 88*

[Text] The terrorist gang of Brunswijk yesterday again raided the palm oil company Victoria. The robbers left with a great amount of consumer items and tools from the company.

Yesterday's robbery was the fourth in 2 months at the company carried out by the gang.

Ten men armed with automatic rifles yesterday showed up at the palm oil company with a letter signed by Brunswijk demanding goods.

The company was closed for a year because of terrorist actions. Production has [words indistinct] since the end of last year and approximately 250,000 liters of cooking oil per month were produced.

President Shankar said yesterday during a press conference that the terrorists have recently destroyed two bridges in the vicinity of the palm oil company.